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NOTE

The term 'Britain' is used informally in the *Survey of Current Affairs* to mean the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. 'Great Britain' comprises England, Wales and Scotland.

Government and Administration

Recent Legislation

The public Acts of Parliament passed since June 1991 are listed below. Nine Acts were introduced by private members; these are indicated by asterisks.

**Age of Legal Capacity (Scotland) Act 1991.* Gives effect to a Scottish Law Commission report on the legal capacity and responsibility of minors and pupils. Royal Assent: 25.7.91. Ch 50. HMSO, £3·10. ISBN 0 10 545091 X.

Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 1991. Consolidates amendments to the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 1949, the fundamental legislation on agricultural tenancy matters in Scotland. Royal Assent: 25.7.91. Ch 55. HMSO, £8·55. ISBN 0 10 545591 1.

Agriculture and Forestry (Financial Provisions) Act 1991. Provides, among other things, for making additional grants to those entitled to European suckler cow premiums (see p 115, 1990). Royal Assent: 25.7.91. Ch 33. HMSO, £1·80. ISBN 0 10 543391 8.

Appropriation Act 1991. Prescribes how expenditure is appropriated in order to finance specific public services. Royal Assent: 25.7.91. Ch 32. HMSO, £6·50. ISBN 0 10 543291 1.

Armed Forces Act 1991. Deals with the system of justice within the armed forces and other matters. Royal Assent: 25.7.91. Ch 62. HMSO, £5·90. ISBN 0 10 546291 8.

Arms Control and Disarmament (Inspections) Act 1991. Facilitates inspections in Britain under the 1990 Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (see p 257). Royal Assent: 25.7.91. Ch 41. HMSO, £3·10. ISBN 0 10 544191 0.

Atomic Weapons Establishment Act 1991. Covers matters relating to the Atomic Weapons Establishment. Royal Assent: 25.7.91. Ch 46. HMSO, £1·80. ISBN 0 10 544691 2.

**Badgers Act 1991.* Extends the Badgers Act 1973 to include protection for the badger set. Royal Assent: 25.7.91. Ch 36. HMSO, £1. ISBN 0 10 543691 7.

**Badgers (Further Protection) Act 1991.* Increases penalties for illegal badger digging, and introduces a power for those convicted to be disqualified from keeping dogs. Royal Assent: 25.7.91. Ch 35. HMSO, £1. ISBN 0 10 543591 0.

**Breeding of Dogs Act 1991.* Extends powers of inspection over dog breeding establishments. Royal Assent: 25.7.91. Ch 64. HMSO, 60p. ISBN 0 10 546491 0.

British Railways Board (Finance) Act 1991. Raises the statutory limit on the Board's indebtedness and sets a new ceiling on the amount of public service obligation grant which can be paid to the Board by the Government. Royal Assent: 25.7.91. Ch 63. HMSO, 60p. ISBN 0 10 546391 4.

Child Support Act 1991 (see p 286). Royal Assent: 25.7.91. Ch 48. HMSO, £7·15. ISBN 0 10 544891 5.

Coal Mining Subsidence Act 1991. Improves the arrangements for dealing with subsidence damage caused by coal mining. Royal Assent:

25.7.91. Ch 45. HMSO, £7·85. ISBN 0 10 544591 6.

Criminal Justice Act 1991 (see p 293). Royal Assent: 25.7.91. Ch 53. HMSO, £12·05. ISBN 0 10 545391 9.

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 (see p 285). Royal Assent: 25.7.91. Ch 65. HMSO, £2·20. ISBN 0 10 546591 7.

Deer Act 1991. Consolidates the Deer Act 1963 and the Deer Act 1980, and corrects drafting errors in them. Royal Assent: 25.7.91. Ch 54. HMSO, £3·55. ISBN 0 10 545491 5.

Finance Act 1991 (see pp 145-52). Royal Assent: 25.7.91. Ch 31. HMSO, £15·25. ISBN 0 10 543191 5.

Foreign Corporations Act 1991. Concerns the status in Britain of bodies incorporated outside Britain. Royal Assent: 25.7.91. Ch 44. HMSO, 60p. ISBN 0 10 544491 X.

**Forestry Act 1991.* Increases, from nine to 12, the maximum number of members of a regional advisory committee maintained under the Forestry Act 1967. Royal Assent: 25.7.91. Ch 43. HMSO, 60p. ISBN 0 10 544391 3.

Land Drainage Act 1991. Concerns the functions of the internal drainage boards and introduces new provisions about drainage rates arising from the Local Government Finance Act 1988. Royal Assent: 25.7.91. Ch 59. HMSO, £8·55. ISBN 0 10 545991 7.

Local Government Finance and Valuation Act 1991 (see pp 269-70). Royal Assent: 25.7.91. Ch 51. HMSO, £2·20. ISBN 0 10 545191 6.

**Medical Qualifications (Amendment) Act 1991.* Amends the definition of a primary United Kingdom qualification for recognition as a medical practitioner. Royal Assent: 25.7.91. Ch 38. HMSO, 60p. ISBN 0 10 543891 X.

**Mental Health (Detention) (Scotland) Act 1991.* Amends the law relating to the short-term detention of patients in hospital, and the determination of applications for admission to hospital. Royal Assent: 25.7.91. Ch 47. HMSO, £1. ISBN 0 10 544791 9.

Planning and Compensation Act 1991 (see pp 162-4). Royal Assent: 25.7.91. Ch 34. HMSO, £16·65. ISBN 0 10 543491 4.

Ports Act 1991 (see pp 74-6). Royal Assent: 25.7.91. Ch 52. HMSO, £6·50. ISBN 0 10 545291 2.

Road Traffic Act 1991 (see pp 28-30). Royal Assent: 25.7.91. Ch 40. HMSO, £11·10. ISBN 0 10 544091 4.

School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Act 1991 (see pp 205-6). Royal Assent: 25.7.91. Ch 49. HMSO, £2·20. ISBN 0 10 544991 1.

**Smoke Detectors Act 1991.* Makes provisions regarding the fitting of smoke detectors in new dwellings. Royal Assent: 25.7.91. Ch 37. HMSO, £1·40. ISBN 0 10 543791 3.

Social Security (Contributions) Act 1991. Requires employers to pay national insurance contributions on company cars and free fuel provided for employees earning over £8,500 a year. Royal Assent: 25.7.91. Ch 42. HMSO, £1·80. ISBN 0 10 544291 7.

Statute Law Revision (Isle of Man) Act 1991. Repeals obsolete legislation for the Isle of Man passed by the British Parliament. Royal Assent: 25.7.91. Ch 61. HMSO, £1·40. ISBN 0 10 546191 1.

Statutory Water Companies Act 1991. Consolidates the provisions of the Water Act 1989 that deal with the corporate structure and powers of the statutory water companies. Royal Assent: 25.7.91. Ch 58. HMSO, £3·10. ISBN 0 10 545891 0.

Water Consolidation (Consequential Provisions) Act 1991. Covers consequential amendments and repeals relating to recent water and land drainage legislation. Royal Assent: 25.7.91. Ch 60. HMSO, £5·90. ISBN 0 10 546091 5.

Water Industry Act 1991. Brings together the principal legislation from the Water Act 1989 (see pp 321-2, 1989) dealing with the water and sewerage companies. Royal Assent:

25.7.91. Ch 56. HMSO, £16·65. ISBN 0 10 545691 8.

Water Resources Act 1991. Brings together the principal legislation from the Water Act 1989 dealing with the National Rivers Authority. Royal Assent: 25.7.91. Ch 57. HMSO, £18·15. ISBN 0 10 545791 4.

**Wildlife and Countryside (Amendment) Act 1991.* Strengthens the prohibition against certain methods of killing or taking wild birds or other animals. Royal Assent: 25.7.91. Ch 39. HMSO, 60p. ISBN 0 10 543991 6.

Criminal Justice Act 1991

The Government's Criminal Justice Bill, which is applicable to England and Wales, received the Royal Assent on 25 July.

The legislation is based largely on the proposals in the White Paper *Crime, Justice and Protecting the Public,* published in February 1990 (see pp 53-9, 1990). The Bill received its second reading in the House of Commons in November 1990 (see pp 410-13, 1990).

Among the Act's provisions, the abolition of the remand of juveniles to Prison Department custody gives effect to government proposals which were announced in February 1991 (see p 53). Changes to the law of evidence and procedure relating to child witnesses are based on recommendations set out in the report of the Advisory Group on Video Evidence, which was published in December 1989. These remove the presumption that young children are not competent to give evidence, and allow video-recorded interviews to be admissible as a child's main evidence.

Other provisions on the early release of prisoners on parole are based on proposals included in the report of a review committee published in November 1988 (see pp 408-10, 1988). Provision for court escort functions and for the management of new remand prisons to be contracted out to the private sector are based on the options set out in a Green Paper published in July 1988 (see pp 258-9, 1988). Additional recommendations on private sector involvement in the remand system were made in a consultancy study published in March 1989 (see pp 87-8, 1989) and a discussion document entitled *Court Escort, Custody and Security* published in July 1990.

Parliamentary Amendments

Changes to the legislation as a result of parliamentary scrutiny include:

– extending the sentencing framework to cover all offences;

– provisions to improve the position of mentally disordered offenders in the criminal justice system;

– the introduction of a requirement on the Home Secretary to publish information to help the administrators of criminal justice to avoid discrimination on the grounds of sex, race or any other improper basis;

– provisions to enable courts to order extended and more intensive supervision for sex offenders who require probation orders or a custodial sentence of 12 months or more;

– new procedures for the release of discretionary life sentence prisoners (those convicted of offences other than murder), whereby the Home Secretary is required to release such prisoners after an initial period set by the trial judge if so directed by the Parole Board, which must be satisfied that the protection of the public does not require their further confinement;

– provisions to end the remanding of juveniles to prisons and to clarify police powers in relation to arrested juveniles;

– a provision that, when sentencing offenders who have spent time in custody abroad awaiting extradition to Britain, courts may order that all or some of such a period should be taken into account; and

– an increase in the maximum prison sentence for bomb hoaxes.

The Citizen's Charter

Government proposals to introduce a Citizen's Charter, intended to raise quality, increase choice, secure better value, and extend accountability in public services, were

set out in a White Paper published on 22 July.[1] The proposals also cover the privatised utilities.

PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT

In his statement on the Citizen's Charter in the House of Commons (*Hansard*, Vol 195, No 150, cols 765-9), the Prime Minister, Mr John Major, said that the proposals built on the Government's previous measures to raise standards and to give the citizen wider choice. These included privatisation and competitive tendering, reforms to give new choice in health and education, and measures to give new opportunities in housing.

The new initiative, he said, was the 'widest ranging and most comprehensive ever undertaken by Government' and would be 'fundamental to the Government's policies for the 1990s'. It would involve:

– more privatisation, wider competition and further contracting-out;

– pay more closely related to performance;

– published performance targets;

– comprehensive information on standards achieved;

– more effective complaints procedures;

– tougher and more independent inspectorates and auditing; and

– better redress for the citizen when things went badly wrong.

All public services would be expected to take action. Legislation would be introduced where necessary.

Mr Major concluded: 'The White Paper is only the beginning of the charter process. Nevertheless, it contains well over 70 specific measures to raise standards in public service.' Over the next few months, separate charters for specific services would be published.

THE WHITE PAPER

General Principles

The White Paper says that public services are paid for by individual citizens and 'they are entitled to expect high quality services, responsive to their needs, provided efficiently at a reasonable cost. Where the state is engaged in regulating, taxing or administering justice, these functions too must be carried out fairly, effectively and courteously.' Choice can also be extended within the public sector by contracting with the private sector for the provision of services, by introducing alternative forms of provision, and by creating a wider range of options where this is cost effective. 'This Government continues to uphold the central principle that essential services – such as education and health – must be available to all, irrespective of means.'

The Charter Standard

The White Paper says that a new standard for the delivery of quality in public services would be published. The key principles would be:

– explicit standards, published and prominently displayed at the point of delivery, together with performance against those standards;

– evidence that the views of those who use the service had been taken into account in setting standards;

– full, accurate information about the range of services being provided, in plain language;

– courteous and efficient customer service, from staff who would normally be prepared to identify themselves by name;

– well-publicised complaints procedures if a customer was not satisfied, with some means of independent review wherever possible; and

– independent validation of performance against standards and a clear commitment to improving value for money.

Providers of services which meet the Charter Standard would be entitled to use the Chartermark.

Complaints and Redress

The Citizen's Charter says that all public services should have complaints procedures which incorporate the following features:

– openness and accessibility, supported by clearly displayed standards at the point of service;

[1] *The Citizen's Charter. Raising the Standard.* Cm 1599. HMSO, £8·50. ISBN 0 10 115992 7.

– provision of information about how to complain, and clearly identified points of contact for complaints; and

– a code of practice for handling complaints, including tight targets for resolving complaints and clear information on further procedures if the customer remains unsatisfied.

Lay Adjudicators

The White Paper says that, where internal complaints procedures fail, there should be an external route for taking matters further. Although a number of such routes for complaints already exist, it is frequently the small problems which cause irritation: 'often these could be resolved very quickly if someone with time and common sense and the right authority were able to look at all the facts objectively and reach a decision'.

The Government therefore proposes the introduction of a new scheme, under which local lay adjudicators would be appointed to deal with minor claims for redress which the body complained against had not settled in a speedy and satisfactory way. They would also advise people on existing complaints procedures. The adjudicators would be volunteers who were trusted by the local community and known to possess common sense and an understanding of people's problems. These qualities would be more important than legal expertise or public sector experience. Individuals would take their complaints to the adjudicators directly. There would be no need for legal representation, and a minimum of formalities.

Public services' participation in the scheme would be voluntary, with any costs being met from within existing resources. Taking part would be an important indicator of an organisation's commitment to the Citizen's Charter. Organisations would be able to delegate to adjudicators the authority to act on their behalf in relation to certain kinds of complaints.

The Government intends to consult widely on its proposal over the next three months and to make a further announcement before the end of 1991.

Legal Immunities

Crown immunities from prosecution have already been removed from a number of areas of public service. The White Paper says that the Government would follow this approach in all similar legislation in future. Only in special cases – for example, those connected with national security – would immunity be maintained.

A further proposal would amend the law to give the citizen the right to sue trade unions which organise unlawful industrial action affecting the services covered by the Citizen's Charter (see p 311).

Civil Service

Executive agencies established under the Next Steps initiative (see pp 176-7) should fully comply with the principles of the Citizen's Charter. The Government would introduce legislation to remove technical impediments to the delegation of decisions about how the Civil Service is managed. Pay related to performance would be introduced for most staff.

Revenue Departments

The White Paper says that taxpayers should expect to be treated fairly and efficiently. A new taxpayer's charter (see pp 276-7, 1986) would be published. [This was published on 13 August.] Customs and Excise would publish separate charters for value added tax, excise duties, and travellers later in 1991.

The Inland Revenue would publish standards for replying to taxpayers' letters. Customs and Excise would expand the use of quality and service indicators and report on their achievement.

Both departments were redesigning some of their main forms and other publications to make them easier to understand. A new series of Inland Revenue leaflets would explain to particular groups of people the kind of service that they could expect. Selected tax enquiry centres would experiment with more flexible opening hours.

The Inland Revenue would seek people's views on the service that they received. A new series of leaflets would outline complaints procedures. Customs and Excise was reviewing its complaints system and would publish improved procedures later in 1991.

Buying Public Services from the Private Sector

During the 1980s, the White Paper says, many private companies decided to concentrate on their core businesses and to buy in services in which they had no particular expertise from specialist contractors. The advantages of this approach, it notes, apply at least as much in the public sector: where central government services had been tested in the market, 85 per cent of the work had been contracted out, with savings averaging 25 per cent. However, in local authorities and health authorities most market-tested work was still carried out by directly employed staff.

The Citizen's Charter suggests that contracting-out is still in its infancy. It therefore proposes to remove remaining obstacles to contracting-out and to subject more work to market-testing. A further White Paper later in 1991 would set out in detail proposals for contracting-out in central government and the National Health Service. Complex procedures would be streamlined and the range of services exposed to competition extended.

Local Authorities

Proposed legislation would require local authorities to publish their response to auditors' reports. It would also require the Audit Commission to publish new league tables of local authority performance.

The White Paper says that local government ombudsmen's recommendations had been ignored in 6 per cent of cases in which maladministration had been found. If difficulties continued, legislation would be introduced to make these recommendations legally enforceable.

National Health Service

The White Paper says that the Government intends to build on the reforms introduced by the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990 (see pp 29-33) by publishing separate patients' charters in England, Scotland and Wales later in 1991. Patients would have a right to expect:

– clear information on, and involvement in choosing, methods of treatment and care;

– freedom to withhold or give consent to medical treatment, and to choose whether to participate in student training and medical research;

– access, with safeguards, to personal information held on medical records;

– respect for privacy, dignity, and religious and cultural beliefs;

– greater freedom to choose general practitioners: and

– an official channel for complaints, and redress when a complaint was upheld.

Measures to improve services for outpatients and those awaiting hospital treatment would include:

– timed appointments for all outpatients; and

– maximum waiting times for treatment.

Each local health authority would be required to publish a charter, setting out the main standards of service that it had negotiated with hospitals and other health care services. Hospitals would also inform patients and their families of the standards of service that they might expect. The Audit Commission would publish comparative information on the performance of health services, so that patients could make informed choices about their treatment.

Social Services

As part of the White Paper's proposals to strengthen audit and inspection services in the public sector, consultation plans are to be published later in 1991 on strengthening the role of the Social Services Inspectorate and introducing an independent element into its work.

Social Security

Later in 1991 the Social Security Benefits Agency (see p 176) will publish a customer charter. Its provisions will include:

– published operational targets;

– improved personal service for members of the public, including the appointment of a customer services manager in each office; and

– more flexible opening hours, where required, to meet the needs of customers.

The Social Security Contributions Agency (see p 176) is to publish a contributors'

charter and an employers' charter later this summer.

Education

The White Paper seeks to reinforce the main aims of the Governments's school reforms (see pp 40-4 and 122-4).

Parents' Charter

The Government intends to publish a parents' charter later in 1991. It is intended to cover:

– parents' rights within schools;

– available alternatives; and

– information about the performance of their children's school and that of other schools.

Information which would be published and made available in comparative form would cover:

– the efficiency of the administration and support service in local education authorities;

– annual public examination results at all schools, further education and sixth-form colleges;

– test results under the National Curriculum;

– placements in further and higher education and the destination of school- and college-leavers; and

– levels of truancy.

From 1991-92 all parents should receive a school report on their child's progress at least once a year. Information on parents' rights and curriculum developments should be distributed annually with reports.

Inspection of Schools

The Government wants to see the inspection of schools based on the broadest possible range of evidence as part of the effort to raise quality. This would include:

– independent judgment about schools, teaching and learning, based on objective inspection and analysis of performance measures;

– independent inspections by teams including lay people with a range of experience; and

– auditing of professional standards.

There would be a statutory requirement for the regular inspection of schools. The results of inspections would have to be distributed to parents, with a follow-up report of action taken to be made available a year later.

Other Measures

The White Paper says that pay systems in the public sector need to make a regular link between performance and rewards. In future a larger proportion of pay should be linked to performance. The Government would encourage the drive towards greater delegation and flexibility in schools through the grant-maintained schools programme.

In addition to existing means of redress, the Government intends that a lay assessor independent of the local authority should be added to appeals tribunals on admissions, exclusion and 'statementing'.

Housing

The White Paper says that local authority tenants should have:

– an improved tenants' charter;

– information about the standards and performance of their local authority in housing management;

– improved rights to repair of their homes; and

– opportunities to transfer away from local authority control.

Authorities would be encouraged to delegate management to tenant bodies and resources would be provided for tenant groups to take over the ownership and management of run-down housing estates. Compulsory competitive tendering would be extended into local authority housing management. There would be a stronger tenants' guarantee for housing associations.

Transport

British Rail

The White Paper says that the Government is determined to restore the status of the railways and the pride and confidence of those who work on them. In pursuit of this objective the Government expects to set out its plans for the privatisation of British Rail (BR) later in 1991. These would be based on three principles:

– a presumption against monopolies;

– the ending as soon as possible of BR's monopoly in the provision of services; and

– the appointment of an independent regulator to ensure fair access to the railway network and fair charging for its use.

BR would publish its passengers' charter later in 1991 and reform its conditions of carriage. The principles of an expanded compensation scheme would include the following features:

– If trains were cancelled or unreasonably delayed, passengers might apply for a refund; however, BR would take the initiative, wherever possible, in offering compensation.

– If passengers decided not to travel because a train had been cancelled, they would receive a full refund.

– A scheme, which BR had been asked to develop, would entitle annual season ticket holders to discounts on the renewal of their tickets to compensate them for poor service in the previous year.

London Underground

The White Paper says that much remains to be done to alleviate acute overcrowding on the busiest lines and poor passenger information. The Government intends to:

– publish tough quality of service targets and London Underground's performance against them;

– encourage London Underground to accelerate its contracting-out programme to improve quality and value for money – for example, in cleaning and maintenance;

– link a larger proportion of board members' pay to the achievement of quality of service objectives; and

– extend performance-related pay to all employees.

London Underground would provide compensation if it failed to deliver its stated level of service.

Buses

The White Paper says that deregulation of services outside London has produced an expansion of both long-distance coach and local bus services, and has transformed the domestic travel market. The Government intends to:

– extend the benefits of a deregulated bus industry to London; and

– privatise London Buses as soon as possible.

Roadworks

The Government intends to extend the lane rental system (by which contractors get a bonus if they work exceptionally quickly and minimise inconvenience) to cover half of all major maintenance contracts, and eventually about two-thirds. There would be a maximum amount of carriageway that could be coned off at any one time.

Tough controls would be brought in to ensure that streetworks were properly controlled. The Government would take a reserve power to penalise work that took longer than it should.

Employment Service

The White Paper seeks to reinforce the Employment Service's aim of giving unemployed people the individual approach that they need:

– Details of all services offered would be displayed in each local office.

– National targets for service delivery would be published each year.

– Local targets for the level of service to clients would be displayed in all jobcentres.

According to the White Paper, the Employment Service will publish its own charter later in 1991, setting out the standards of service which unemployed people were entitled to expect.

Post Office

The White Paper contains major proposals to reform the structure of postal services and to extend competition and consumer choice. These include:

– lowering the minimum that may be charged by those competing with the Post Office monopoly of mail delivery from £1 to nearer the price of a first class stamp (currently 22p);

– an independent regulator to advise on issues affecting customers' interests;

– performance standards set by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry – rather than by the Post Office; and

– much better information about compensation and redress when service falls below standard.

Privatised Utilities

The White Paper says that for as long as there is an element of monopoly in the privatised utilities, customers' interests must be protected. The privatisation legislation had therefore provided for an independent regulator for each of the utilities. The Government would introduce legislation to strengthen the formal powers of the regulators, including OFTEL and OFGAS in the telecommunications and gas industries respectively. It would make sure that regulators had adequate powers to require the award of compensation in response to legitimate customer complaints.

Justice and the Law

Police

The White Paper says that all police forces should deliver standards of service which go as far as possible to meet the public's expectations. All forces would be expected to set and publish target times for answering telephone calls and arriving at incidents which required rapid reaction, such as public disorder or threats to life. Information on quality of performance would be gathered in a number of other areas. These include:

– fair practice in cautioning and stops and searches;

– speed of help to victims of crime (see p 100, 1990); and

– analysis of complaints.

A further proposal includes the introduction of an independent element into the Inspectorate of Constabulary, with the appointment of lay experts.

Courts

The White Paper says that the Government is constantly seeking ways to make the courts more accessible to all who have to use them. The Lord Chancellor would publish details of performance standards and indicators in the annual report on the court service. Information on the courts' performance would be made available through court user committees, and more effort would be made to obtain the views of those who used the courts.

Further improvements would be made to reduce delays in bringing people to court, including reducing the time spent in custody on remand awaiting trial. Time limits would become general in England and Wales from 1 October 1991.

The position of jurors would be improved in the following ways:

– More information would be made available to juries, and the training of those receiving juries would be improved.

– Juries considering their verdict would be allowed to go home at the end of a working day. (At present a jury which is continuing to consider its verdict at the end of a working day is confined to a hotel overnight.)

The position of witnesses would also be improved:

– Orders to attend court would be made more informal.

– Information points would be established in each Crown Court centre.

– Efforts would be made to ensure that witnesses in long-running cases would be called to court only when needed.

– Victims of crime who were called as witnesses should be allowed to familiarise themselves with courtroom surroundings before they appeared in court.

Prisons

The White Paper says that all citizens are entitled to consideration, including those who offend against the law. A number of measures would be introduced to ensure that prisoners received clear, basic information from the start of their time in custody about decisions affecting them and preparations for their release. It favours the idea of prison officers being readily identifiable by name.

Implementing the Charter Principles

Prime Minister's Panel of Advisers

The Prime Minister is to appoint a panel of independent advisers on the Citizen's Charter initiative. Members of the panel will be drawn from outside Government and in

particular from commercial organisations with direct experience of service to the public. Their terms of reference will be to review the way in which proposals in the White Paper were being implemented and suggest new ways in which the principles could be applied.

Citizen's Charter Unit

A Citizen's Charter Unit will be set up in the Cabinet Office to co-ordinate the programme of action arising from the White Paper, to develop further proposals and to support the Prime Minister's panel of advisers. It will also be responsible for developing the Charter Standard and the lay adjudicator scheme, and for ensuring effective presentation and publicity.

Shorter Note

INTERNAL MANAGEMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

A range of options for change in the decision-making process of local authorities in England was set out in a consultation paper published on 30 July. This is the third and final paper to be published in the Government's comprehensive review of local government (see pp 173-5).

The consultation paper says that local government has an important role in the community and that it is vital that able and experienced people should seek election. However, the way that local authorities conduct their business remains based on the practices of the first half of the nineteenth century: most council decisions are taken in committee, a process that has been described as time-consuming and cumbersome. The Government's objectives for any change are:

– to promote more effective, and speedy, decision making;

– to improve the scrutiny of service delivery;

– to increase the interest taken by the public in local government; and

– to provide scope for councillors to devote more time to their constituency role.

In order to achieve these objectives the Government is considering the following options:

1 adapting the committee system – to allow councils to delegate decision making to committee chairmen – or reconsidering the need for the representation of minority parties on committees;

2 a cabinet system whereby an executive of elected members would be chosen from the council as a whole;

3 council managers, appointed by councils to take over the day-to-day running of authorities;

4 directly elected executives, with separate elections to councils; and

5 directly elected mayors responsible for councils' executive responsibilities.

The Government is seeking views on whether there should be experimental studies of these options in a number of authorities. It is recognised that different solutions may be appropriate to different authorities and that change may not be needed in all cases. Views are also sought on pay for councillors. Some of the options for change would involve some members of local authorities taking on increased responsibilities. In order to attract people of the right calibre there may be a case for paying such people salaries. In general, however, the Government continues to believe in the tradition of voluntary service. Finally, views are sought on local electoral arrangements. The deadline for responses is 29 November 1991.

Source: *Local Government Review. The Internal Management of Local Authorities in England. A Consultation Paper.* Available free from the Department of the Environment, Room N7/20, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB.

External Affairs and Defence

Strategic Nuclear Arms Treaty

During a two-day summit held in Moscow on 31 July and 1 August, the Soviet President, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, and the United States President, Mr George Bush, signed a treaty reducing US and Soviet strategic nuclear missiles and warheads.

British Statement

In a statement issued by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office on 31 July, Britain congratulated the United States and the Soviet Union on their signing of the strategic arms reduction talks (START) treaty (see pp 203-4, 1990). The treaty, with the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty (see pp 419-20, 1990), was an 'important milestone towards a safer and more stable world'. The START treaty marked 'a major step towards further strategic stability and reduced tensions' by

– securing reductions for the first time in strategic offensive weapons (as much as 50 per cent for some systems and 25 to 35 per cent in general);

– limiting the most destabilising systems (heavy Soviet intercontinental ballistic missiles – ICBMs); and

– containing extensive verification and stabilisation provisions.

The treaty also established a good basis for further efforts towards strategic arms limitation.

START Treaty

The limits agreed involve cuts in missile launchers, ICBMs and submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) which have ranges of more than 3,400 miles (5,470 km), and missiles and bombs delivered by heavy bombers.

Limits

An overall limit of 6,000 'accountable' warheads for each side is established. This limit comprises:

– the number of warheads deployed on ICBMs and SLBMs;

– the number of long-range, nuclear-armed air-launched cruise missiles deployed on bombers; and

– one warhead attributed to each heavy bomber equipped only for nuclear bombs and short-range attack missiles.

The central limits set by the treaty include:

– 1,540 warheads on 154 of the heavy ICBMs (a limit which requires the Soviet Union to reduce by 50 per cent its SS18 launchers in seven years – the United States has none);

– 1,600 strategic nuclear delivery vehicles (missiles, their launchers, and bombers);

– 4,900 ballistic missile warheads; and

– 1,100 warheads on deployed mobile ICBMs.

Sea-launched cruise missiles (SLCMs) will not be constrained in the treaty. Each side, however, will provide the other with a politically binding declaration concerning nuclear SLCMs whose range is over 600 km (373 miles). In annual declarations, the planned maximum number of these for each of the following five treaty years will be specified, with a maximum limit of 880. Shorter-range, nuclear-armed SLCMs (300 to 600 km/186 to 373 miles) will also be the subject of confidential annual exchanges.

Duration

The treaty, which will last 15 years and be renewable for successive five-year periods, envisages limitations and reductions to be carried out in three phases over seven years.

Verification

The treaty provides a wide variety of unprecedented and demanding verification measures to ensure compliance, which will also help build mutual confidence and reduce uncertainty. The measures include:

– an extensive exchange of information on the size and composition of US and Soviet strategic forces;

– 12 different types of on-site inspections;

– a ban on practices that deny full access to telemetric information during missile flight tests; and

– continuous monitoring of mobile ICBM assembly facilities.

Other Clauses

The two powers also agreed not to transfer strategic weapons to third countries. However, there will be no interference with existing patterns of co-operation.

Background

During the 1970s the negotiations on strategic nuclear weapons (Strategic Arms Limitation Talks) led to agreements which set overall limits rather than reductions on US and Soviet strategic nuclear weapons. In 1982, however, the United States proposed negotiations for significant reductions in strategic nuclear weapons. Broken off by the Soviet Union in 1983, talks resumed in 1985, when the two countries agreed that they would try 'to work out effective agreements aimed at preventing an arms race in space and terminating it on earth and limiting and reducing nuclear arms, and strengthening strategic stability' (see p 12, 1985).

At a summit meeting in November 1985 the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union agreed to accelerate the pace of the nuclear arms negotiations and endorsed the principle of a 50 per cent reduction in strategic weapons. Despite further summits a number of other differences continued to exist between the two sides, including the treatment of nuclear SLCMs and the rules to be applied to air-launched cruise missiles (see p 161, 1990). However, in 1987 the United States and the Soviet Union signed the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty, which eliminated within three years US and Soviet land-based, long-range and shorter-range INF (see pp 9-11, 1988).

Middle East

Britain is supporting diplomatic efforts by the United States Government to secure the agreement of all parties in the Middle East to the convening of a peace conference. A British hostage in Lebanon, Mr John McCarthy, was released from captivity on 8 August.

Background

At the end of the Gulf conflict in February (see pp 93-7) the United States Secretary of State, Mr James Baker, embarked on a series of visits to the Middle East aiming to secure acceptance of his initiative for a peace conference on the Arab/Israel dispute.

The core of the US peace initiative includes the following elements:

– co-sponsorship by the United States and the Soviet Union, participation by the European Community Presidency and observer status for the United Nations;

– simultaneous discussions, under the umbrella of the conference, between Israel and its Arab neighbours and between Israel and the Palestinians;

– negotiations on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 (see p 12, 1989);

– no pre-conditions on the nature of an eventual settlement – for example, no commitment on a separate Palestinian state; and

– representation of the Palestinians by figures from outside the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), probably in a joint delegation with Jordan.

Diplomatic Progress

Responses by Arab states to the United States initiative were positive. The Syrian Govern-

ment accepted the proposals unconditionally on 14 July. On 19 July, President Mubarak of Egypt said that, if Israel stopped building settlements in the Occupied Territories, he thought that Arab states would end their boycott of Israel. Such a proposal, endorsed by Saudi Arabia, was put forward by the leaders of the seven major industrialised nations, including Britain, at the London summit meeting from 15 to 17 July (see pp 305-10). At the same time, the Jordanian Prime Minister issued an invitation to Palestinians to come to Amman to discuss the idea of a joint Jordanian/Palestinian delegation.

On 29 July, European Community member states declared that they would make 'their full contribution as a participant' in the peace process.

At their summit meeting in Moscow at the end of July (see pp 301-2), the United States President, Mr George Bush, and the Soviet President, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, issued a joint declaration on the Middle East pledging to promote and sustain the peace-making process. Both countries, acting as co-sponsors, would work to convene in October 1991 a peace conference designed to launch bilateral and multilateral negotiations.

Under pressure to respond flexibly, Israel expressed its willingness in early August to enter peace negotiations in accordance with the United States initiative, 'subject to a satisfactory solution of the issue of Palestinian Arab representation in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation'. Israel opposes the inclusion in any such delegation of recognised members of the PLO or any Palestinians from East Jerusalem, and the issue remains to be resolved. The Israeli Government agreed in June to the participation in any conference of the European Community Presidency 'alongside the United States and the USSR'.

British View

Although favouring the concept of a larger international conference (see p 206, 1990), Britain supported the United States initiative from its outset and urged all parties concerned to show flexibility.

A spokesman for the Foreign & Commonwealth Office said on 5 August that Britain hoped that agreement could be reached in a way which made the Palestinian delegation representative and enabled the peace conference to start. He added that Britain had always regarded East Jerusalem as part of the Occupied Territories.

Western Hostages in Lebanon

Mr John McCarthy, who had been held as a hostage in Lebanon by Islamic fundamentalists for more than five years, was released on 8 August.

Commenting on the release, the Minister of State at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Mr Douglas Hogg, said that it had been brought about by two main factors. First, the Government of Lebanon was re-establishing control over its own territory, which made the holding of hostages more difficult. 'Secondly, all the governments of the region who have influence have decided that the time is right for them to use their influence on those who hold the hostages to procure their release and most notably I do pay tribute and thanks to the governments of Iran, Syria and the Lebanon.'

Mr Hogg said that Britain would continue to press for the release of other Western hostages, particularly the two remaining British citizens – Mr Terry Waite and Mr Jack Mann. He also hoped that Shia detainees in south Lebanon would be released by the Israeli Government, which in turn was seeking the return from Lebanon of missing Israeli servicemen.

On 11 August a United States hostage in Lebanon was released, together with a French citizen who had been abducted at the time of Mr McCarthy's release.

On the same day Mr McCarthy met the United Nations Secretary-General, Sr. Perez de Cuellar, to deliver personally a letter from his former captors regarding the hostage issue. The wide-ranging letter included demands for the release of Arabs detained under Israeli control and also the release of Palestinian terrorists in European prisons.

In a statement on 12 August a spokesman for the Foreign & Commonwealth Office said that Britain wished to see the release of all hostages wherever they might be. He added that it would be helpful in maintaining the momentum of the current process if some detainees held by Israel were to be released

soon. He noted that the United Nations was now involved and that it 'would use its good offices to break the logjam'.

In a further statement on 13 August the Foreign & Commonwealth Office reiterated that Britain would do everything possible to secure the release of hostages in Lebanon 'short of doing deals with hostage takers'. Regarding Arab terrorists in detention in Europe, it said that convicted criminals in Britain were not hostages.

Yugoslavia

Foreign ministers of the European Community and representatives of the 35 member states of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe have called for all parties in Yugoslavia to begin negotiations on the future of the country.

Yugoslavian Crisis

With violence continuing in Croatia between Croatian and Serbian forces, the Federal Presidency voted by a majority on 18 July to withdraw the federal army from Slovenia (see pp 264-5). Later, on 22 July, a declaration by the Federal Presidency was issued, which envisaged that, after the disarming of all paramilitary groups and the demobilisation of reserve forces in Croatia, the federal army would be withdrawn to barracks and the Brioni Declaration implemented. On 26 July the Presidency again demanded an immediate ceasefire and an end to hostilities between Croatian and Serbian forces in Eastern Croatia.

The Federal Presidency announced a ceasefire in Croatia on 6 August.

European Community Declaration

In a declaration issued in The Hague on 6 August, foreign ministers of the European Community (EC) urged the Federal Presidency to start negotiations on the future of the country, and expressed their readiness to convene such a conference if necessary. Negotiations 'should be based on the principles that any change of internal and international borders by force is not acceptable and that any solution should guarantee the rights of minorities in all the Republics'.

Referring to the forthcoming Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) meeting in Prague (see pp 261-2), the foreign ministers called on CSCE members to support the Twelve's initiatives to bring about a ceasefire in Yugoslavia and to help promote peaceful dialogue.

CSCE Prague Meeting

Following an emergency meeting in Prague on 8 and 9 August, the committee of senior officials of the 35 CSCE nations appealed to all parties in Yugoslavia to co-operate in maintaining the ceasefire proclaimed by the Federal Presidency. It also supported the enlargement of the EC monitoring mission, in agreement with the Yugoslav authorities, to include other members of the committee in the monitoring activities.[1] Furthermore, the committee supported the intention of the Federal Government to start negotiations on the future of Yugoslavia.

[1] In the Brioni Declaration it was agreed that some 50 EC observers would monitor the situation in Slovenia and parts of Croatia.

Economic and Scientific Affairs

London Economic Summit

The seventeenth annual summit of the seven major industrialised countries was held in London from 15 to 17 July. After the completion of the summit, an additional session took place, at which the President of the Soviet Union, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, was present. As well as economic issues, the summit covered political questions (including arms control and the developing countries and debt), energy, the environment and drugs.

The summit was attended by the heads of State and Government of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States, together with representatives of the European Community. At the end, economic and political declarations were issued as well as one on arms control. The eighteenth summit will be held in Munich in July 1992.

ECONOMIC DECLARATION

Economic Policy

The economic declaration welcomed the fact that, following the slowing in growth or recession that most of the seven economies had experienced over the past year, there were now increasing signs of recovery. Progress had also been made in reducing the largest imbalances on trade and the current account of the balance of payments.

Shared objectives were sustained recovery and price stability. To this end, the participants were determined to maintain the medium-term strategy endorsed at earlier summits. This strategy had kept inflationary expectations in check and had created the conditions for sustainable growth and new jobs. They committed themselves to fiscal and monetary policies that provided the basis for lower real interest rates. A continued reduction in budget deficits was essential; this, together with efforts to reduce impediments to private saving, would help to generate the increase in global savings needed in order to finance investment.

The leaders would also, with the help of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and other institutions, pursue reforms to improve economic efficiency and the potential for growth. These would include:

1 greater competition, including regulatory reform, to enhance consumer choice, reduce prices and ease burdens on business;

2 curbing of subsidies, which led to inefficient allocation of resources and inflated public expenditure;

3 improvements in education and training;

4 more efficiency in the public sector through, for example, higher standards of management, privatisation and contracting-out;

5 wide and rapid diffusion of advances in science and technology; and

6 essential investment, both private and public, in infrastructure.

International Trade

'No issue has more far-reaching implications for the future prospects of the world economy than the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round [of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) – see p 282]. It will stimulate non-inflationary

growth by bolstering confidence, reversing protectionism and increasing trade flows. It will be essential to encourage the integration of developing countries and Central and East European nations into the multilateral trading system. All these benefits will be lost if we cannot conclude the Round.' The aim should be to complete the Round before the end of 1991. The main requirement was to move forward urgently in the following areas:

1 market access, by reducing tariffs and non-tariff barriers to trade;

2 agriculture, where substantial reductions in support and protection had to be achieved;

3 services, where commitments had to be reached to reduce or remove existing restrictions and not to impose new ones; and

4 intellectual property,[1] where agreements to protect property rights were necessary in order to encourage investment and the spread of technology.

The participants recalled that the Houston summit in 1990 had noted the need for institutional reinforcement of the multilateral trading system (see p 246, 1990). The concept of an international trade organisation should be addressed in this context.

Open markets helped to create the resources needed to protect the environment, the declaration stated. Accordingly, the leaders commended the OECD's pioneering work in ensuring that trade and environmental policies were mutually supporting. They looked to GATT to define how trade measures could properly be used for environmental purposes.

They expressed an urgent need for OECD members to overcome remaining obstacles to an agreement on reducing the distortions arising from subsidised export credits and tied aid credits.

Energy

The Gulf crisis had shown the vulnerability of the supply and price of oil to political shocks. However, these shocks had been contained by the effective operation of the market, by an increase in supplies from certain oil-exporting countries and by the co-ordination of the International Energy Agency. The participants were committed to strengthening the Agency's capacity to deal with emergencies.

The leaders would work to secure stable worldwide energy supplies, to remove barriers to energy trade and investment, to encourage high environmental and safety standards and to promote international co-operation in research and development. They would also seek to improve energy efficiency and to price energy from all sources so as fully to reflect costs, including environmental costs.

In developing nuclear power, it was necessary to achieve and maintain the highest available standards of safety, with regard to waste management, among other things. The safety situation in Central and Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union deserved particular attention.

The commercial development of renewable energy should also be encouraged because of the advantages it afforded for environmental protection and energy security.

Central and Eastern Europe

The declaration noted that all the countries of Central and Eastern Europe except Albania were now members of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank. The participants welcomed the steps being taken by those countries implementing IMF-supported programmes of macroeconomic stabilisation. It was, however, crucial for these programmes to be complemented by structural reforms, such as privatisation, restructuring state-owned enterprises, increasing competition and strengthening property rights. They also welcomed the establishment of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD – see pp 183-5), which had a mandate to foster the transition to open, market-oriented economies and to promote private initiative in Central and Eastern European countries committed to democracy.

A favourable climate for private investment, both foreign and domestic, was crucial for sustained growth, the declaration continued, and for avoiding dependence on external assistance from governments. In this respect, technical assistance from private

[1] Patents, designs, trade marks and copyright.

sectors and governments, the European Community and international institutions should concentrate on helping this essential market-based transformation. It was important that environmental considerations be integrated into the economic restructuring of these countries.

Substantial bilateral support for Central and Eastern European countries, involving the European Commission, had been mobilised. Balance-of-payments finance to underpin IMF-supported programmes was in place for Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

The Soviet Union

The leaders expressed support for the moves towards political and economic transformation in the Soviet Union. They were ready to assist its integration into the world economy.

They commended the IMF, World Bank, OECD and EBRD for their study of the Soviet economy, which had been produced in close collaboration with the European Commission in response to the request made in Houston (see p 247, 1990). The study set out many of the elements necessary for successful economic reform, including fiscal and monetary discipline and the creation of a framework for a market economy.

Developing Countries and Debt

The participants declared that their commitment to helping developing countries, in conjunction with non-inflationary recovery of their economies and the opening of their markets, would be the most effective way of improving prosperity in these countries.

Africa deserved special attention. Progress by African governments towards sound economic policies, democracy and accountability was improving their countries' prospects for growth. This was being aided by continued support from the summit countries, focused on stimulating development of the private sector, encouraging regional integration, providing concessional flows and reducing debt burdens.

Many countries in the Asia-Pacific region continued to achieve dynamic growth. The leaders welcomed the efforts of those economies that were assuming new international responsibilities. Other Asian countries, which were strengthening their reform efforts, continued to need external assistance.

In Latin America, efforts at economic reform and regional integration had proved encouraging. Various initiatives were helping to create the right climate for direct investment, freer trade and a reversal of capital flight.

The participants agreed on the need for debt relief for the poorest countries over and above that granted under the Toronto terms. The Paris Club (see pp 346-7, 1990) should continue its discussions on how these measures could best be promptly implemented.

The leaders recognised the need for appropriate new financial flows to developing countries. They believed that the best way of avoiding unsustainable levels of debt was for developing countries to attract direct investment and reverse capital flight.

The Environment

'The international community will face formidable environmental challenges in the coming decade', the declaration continued. Environmental considerations had to be integrated into the full range of government policies, in a way that reflected their economic costs.

There had to be a co-operative international approach to tackling environmental issues. Industrialised countries should set an example and so encourage developing countries and those of Central and Eastern Europe (see p 268) to play their part.

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in June 1992 (see pp 424-5, 1990) would be 'a landmark event'. The leaders committed themselves to work for a successful conference. By the time of UNCED they aimed to have achieved an effective framework convention on climate change and agreement on forest conservation.

Within the context of UNCED, they would seek to promote:

1 mobilisation of financial resources to help developing countries tackle environmental problems;

2 encouragement of technology transfers to such countries;

3 a comprehensive approach to the oceans;

4 further development of the international law of the environment; and

5 reinforcement of international institutions concerned with the environment, including the United Nations Environment Programme (see pp 424-5, 1990), for the decade ahead.

They remained concerned about the destruction of tropical forests and welcomed the progress made on the pilot programme for the conservation of the rainforest in Brazil.

The burning oil wells and the polluted seas in the Gulf had pointed the need for greater international capacity to prevent and respond to environmental disasters.

In the light of the recent storm damage in Bangladesh (see p 186), the participants encouraged the work on flood alleviation under the auspices of the World Bank.

Marine life threatened by over-fishing and other harmful practices should be protected by international law. They urged control of marine pollution and compliance with the regimes established by regional fisheries organisations.

Drugs

The declaration noted with satisfaction progress made over the past year on drugs, notably the coming into force of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (see p 15, 1989, and pp 285-6). It welcomed the formation of the United Nations International Drugs Control Programme.

The leaders would maintain their efforts to combat 'the scourge of cocaine' and would match these by increased attention to heroin, which was still the main hard drug in Europe and Asia. Political changes in Central and Eastern Europe and the opening of frontiers there had increased the threat of drug misuse and made possible trafficking, but they had also increased the scope for concerted action on a European scale against drugs.

They commended the achievements of the task forces initiated at previous summits (see p 248, 1990) and urged all countries to take part in the international fight against money laundering and to co-operate with the task force dealing with the problem (see pp 190-1, 1990).

POLITICAL DECLARATION

The United Nations

Stressing the need to reinforce the United Nations, the communiqué said that the conditions now existed for the United Nations to fulfil completely the promise and the vision of its founders. It added: 'We commit ourselves to making the UN stronger, more efficient and more effective in order to protect human rights, to maintain peace and security for all and to deter aggression. We will make preventive diplomacy a top priority to help avert future conflicts by making clear to potential aggressors the consequences of their actions. The UN's role in peacekeeping should be reinforced and we are prepared to support this strongly.'

UN Emergency Relief

The communiqué suggested that the system of UN emergency relief could be strengthened by the designation of a high-level official responsible for directing prompt international responses to emergencies and for co-ordinating various UN appeals. The United Nations also needed to alert the international community to coming crises and to work on the preparation of contingency plans designed to meet emergencies.

Iraq and Kuwait

The participants said that they intended to maintain sanctions against Iraq until all the relevant resolutions of the Security Council had been implemented in full and until the people of Iraq, as well as their neighbours, could live 'without fear of intimidation, repression or attack'. The Iraqi people deserved the opportunity to choose their leadership openly and democratically. The communiqué looked forward to forthcoming elections in Kuwait and to an improvement of the human rights situation there and in the region.

Arab-Israel Dispute

Support was given to the idea of parallel and direct negotiations between Israel and

representative Palestinians on the one hand and Israel and the Arab states on the other. They urged the parties to the dispute to adopt reciprocal and confidence-building measures, such as the suspension by the Arab states of the boycott against Israel and an Israeli suspension of settlement-building in territories occupied in 1967.

The leaders said that they were prepared to support economic co-operation among the countries of the Middle East on the basis of liberal policies designed to encourage the repatriation of capital, an increase in investment and a decrease in obstacles to trade.

Eastern Europe

A welcome was given to the political and economic reforms in Eastern Europe. 'We have a strong interest in the success of market reforms and democracy in Central and Eastern Europe and we commit ourselves to full support for these reforms.'

The Soviet Union

On political reforms in the Soviet Union, the communiqué said that the participants welcomed the efforts to create a new union based on consent and in response to the wishes of the people. 'We reiterate our commitment to working with the Soviet Union to support their efforts to create an open society, a pluralistic democracy and a market economy. We hope the negotiations between the USSR and the elected governments of the Baltic countries will resolve their future democratically and in accordance with the legitimate aspirations of the people.'

Yugoslavia

Turning to the question of Yugoslavia, the leaders said that military force could not lead to a lasting settlement and urged all parties to comply with the Brioni agreement (see p 265). They supported the efforts of the European Community to resolve the crisis (see p 304).

South Africa

The participants welcomed the dismantling of the legislative pillars of apartheid in South Africa and hoped that the *de facto* elimination of apartheid would follow. There was an urgent need to restore growth to the South African economy to help reduce inequalities of wealth and opportunity. Aid from the participants would be directed to those areas where the majority of the population had long suffered deprivation – education, health, housing and social welfare. South Africa needed to pursue new economic, investment and other policies that would permit normal access to all sources of foreign borrowing.

Terrorism

Vigorous efforts to deter terrorism and hostage taking were called for. 'We reaffirm our condemnation of all forms of terrorism. We will work together to deter and combat terrorism by all possible means within the framework of international law and national legislation, particularly in the fields of international civil aviation security and the marking of plastic explosives for the purpose of detection.'

ARMS CONTROL

Conventional Arms Transfers

Accepting that many states depended on the import of arms to assure a reasonable level of security and that the right of self defence was recognised by the UN charter, the leaders said that the Gulf conflict had shown how peace and security could be undermined when one country obtained an arsenal that threatened its neighbours. 'We are determined to ensure such abuse should not happen again.'

As a step towards more openness in arms transfers, the participants expressed support for a universal register of arms transfers under the auspices of the United Nations. Under this proposal information would be supplied by all states on a regular basis after arms transfers had taken place. They also supported the idea of more openness about overall holdings by states of conventional weapons.

The participants recognised the need for all of them to take steps to prevent the building up of disproportionate arsenals. 'To that end all countries should refrain from arms transfers which would be destabilising or would exacerbate existing tensions. Special

restraint should be exercised in the transfer of advanced technology weapons and in sales to countries and areas of particular concern. A special effort should be made to define sensitive items and production capacity for advanced weapons, to the transfer of which similar restraints could be applied.'

Iraqi aggression and the ensuing Gulf war had also shown the huge costs to the international community of military conflict. Moderation in the level of military spending was a key aspect of sound economic policy and good government. Excessive arms spending diverted resources from the need to tackle economic development.

Non-Proliferation

Expressing concern about the proliferation of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, and missile delivery systems, the leaders said that they were 'determined to combat this menace by strengthening and expanding the non-proliferation regimes'. They called upon all non-signatory states to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and to ensure that their nuclear activities conformed with the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency. They undertook to maintain and reinforce the Non-Proliferation Treaty arrangements beyond 1995 and to achieve a strengthened and improved safeguards system.

They also agreed to encourage adhesion to the convention on biological weapons. A successful review conference in September 1991 would make an important contribution to preventing their proliferation.

On chemical weapons, the participants reaffirmed their intention to become original signatories of a comprehensive and verifiable convention banning these weapons (see p 263). In the event of a state using such weapons, 'each of us agrees to give immediate consideration to imposing severe measures against it both in the UN Security Council and elsewhere'.

PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENT

In a statement to the House of Commons on 19 July (*Hansard*, Vol 195, No 149, cols 663-5), the Prime Minister, Mr John Major, said that the common aim at the summit had been to build on the movement towards freedom, democracy and the open economy that had been the theme in 1990 in Houston (see pp 245-8, 1990). He believed that the summit had been a success.

There had been a 'productive, substantial session' with President Gorbachev. Agreement had been reached on six specific points:

1 special association of the Soviet Union with the IMF and the World Bank;

2 these two institutions as well as the OECD and the EBRD to be asked to work closely together in support of the Soviet Union;

3 intensified technical assistance to the Soviet Union, especially in energy, moving resources out of defence, food distribution, nuclear safety and transport (the Prime Minister having the previous day announced an increase in Britain's know-how fund assistance to the Soviet Union [see p 186] from £20 million to £50 million);

4 improved access to foreign markets for Soviet goods and services;

5 a visit by Mr Major, as chairman of the summit, to Moscow before the end of 1991 to review progress; and

6 a visit by ministers of finance and small business to Moscow for discussions with their Soviet counterparts.

The Prime Minister described the meeting with Mr Gorbachev as a 'landmark'. He believed that it would be seen as a first step towards helping the Soviet Union into full membership of the world economic community.

There will be further coverage of recent developments in the Soviet Union and of British and international reaction in the September issue of the *Survey of Current Affairs*.

Industrial Relations

The Government has announced its proposals for further reform of industrial relations law in a Green Paper, *Industrial Relations in the 1990s*, published on 24 July. The Secretary of State for Employment,

Mr Michael Howard, said that the proposals were designed to build on the improvement in Britain's industrial relations since 1979.

Government Proposals

The main proposals of the Green Paper[1] are:

– a right for members of the public to seek injunctions to halt unlawful industrial action affecting public services;

– a requirement for seven days' notice to be given before strikes and other industrial action;

– the right for individual employees to join the union of their choice;

– the right for union members not to have their dues deducted from their pay by their employer without their individual consent;

– rights for members to obtain more information about their union's affairs, including the salaries of its principal officers;

– rights for members to combat vote-rigging in trade union elections;

– the right to a postal ballot before a strike or on union mergers;

– legally enforceable status for collective agreements, binding on both parties, unless an agreement contains a specific provision to the contrary;

– new powers for the Certification Officer to investigate mismanagement of union finances; and

– increased penalties for union leaders who fail to keep proper accounts.

Ministerial Statement

Announcing the publication of the Green Paper in the House of Commons (*Hansard*, Vol 195, No 152, cols 1165-8), Mr Howard said that its purpose was to increase the rights of individual members of the public, of individual trade union members and of the community at large.

Before 1980, the Secretary of State said, the law had given trade unions virtually unlimited licence to organise strikes and industrial action, no matter how remote from the original dispute. There had been no requirement for secret ballots before strikes, and the effects of industrial action could be spread by flying pickets. The Government had protected businesses against secondary picketing, and strike ballots had become an accepted part of industrial relations. The number of strikes was down to its lowest for 60 years, thanks partly to the Government's industrial relations legislation. It was now proposed to strengthen this.

Industrial Action

The proposed right for members of the public in relation to unlawful industrial action affecting a public service had been announced by the Prime Minister, Mr John Major, on 22 July as part of the Citizen's Charter (see p 295). At present, Mr Howard said, members of the public, who were generally the target of such industrial action, did not share the employer's right to bring proceedings against a union that organised an unlawful strike. The proposal would allow members of the public to seek an injunction to halt such action if the employer concerned had failed to use the remedies available. This proposal had been widely welcomed. It was also proposed to require seven days' notice of a strike. Such a notice period was a well-established feature of the law in many other countries. Its introduction would help to protect people from lightning strikes in public services.

Rights of Trade Union Members

The Government's earlier reforms had given individual trade union members important rights that they had not had before 1979. These included the right to elect their leaders and the right to a secret ballot before a strike. Experience had shown, however, that the present law had not always provided effective protection against malpractice in union ballots, some of which had had to be re-run because of vote-rigging. The Green Paper therefore proposed new rights for union members to inspect their union's membership records, which would enable them to detect false entries.

Records would be required to be kept of the number of ballot papers issued and received in each locality. In addition, the

[1] *Industrial Relations in the 1990s: Proposals for Further Reform of Industrial Relations and Trade Union Law.* Cm 1602. HMSO, £6·60. ISBN 0 10 116022 4.

requirements for postal voting and independent scrutiny, which had applied to union elections since 1988, would be extended to cover strike ballots and ballots on union mergers.

As a result of the Employment Act 1990, the Secretary of State said, no-one could lawfully be refused employment for union membership or non-membership. However, the Trades Union Congress (TUC) 'Bridlington principles' could still deny individuals the right to join the union that they believed would best represent their interests. The only choice for someone would often be between remaining in a union that he or she disagreed with or ceasing to be a member of any TUC-affiliated union. Indeed, many trade union leaders now regarded the Bridlington principles as unworkable. The Government was therefore proposing that, where more than one union represented employees in a particular occupation or industry, individual employees would be free to choose which union they joined without the constraint of any arrangements between trade unions designed to deny them that freedom of choice.

On union finances, the Government was proposing that automatic deduction of trade union dues from the payroll would be unlawful without the written consent of the individual concerned. At present, where this deduction was agreed between union and employer, the individual could avoid it only by resigning from the union. Members would also have more powers to see that the finances of their union were being properly managed.

Collective Agreements

The final proposal, Mr Howard said, concerned the legal status of collective agreements. Present law created a presumption that such agreements were not legally binding. In most countries it was normal for agreements to have the status of contracts, imposing obligations on both sides. This brought greater clarity to bargaining and greater stability to industrial relations. The British situation, moreover, created an imbalance, whereby unions were at liberty to ignore collective agreements, but employers were bound by the terms of agreements if they had incorporated them into employment contracts of individual employees. The Government therefore proposed to change the present presumption, so that an agreement was legally binding unless it contained a provision to the contrary. However, employers and trade unions would remain free to decide whether to make collective agreements legally binding.

Agriculture and Forestry

The Government has announced new planning controls over agricultural and forestry buildings in England and Wales, and rates of payment for a one-year Set-Aside Scheme.

It has also issued an order to prevent the spread of blue-eared pig disease.

The Woodland Grant Scheme has been relaunched in Wales.

Agricultural and Forestry Buildings

The new planning measures are designed to provide more effective control over development associated with the fragmentation of holdings. The measures also discourage the erection, under permitted development rights, of buildings ultimately intended either for non-agricultural uses or for an agricultural dwelling where there is no prospect of a viable holding.

Background

In October 1990 a government consultation paper proposed:

1 the extension to all areas of England and Wales of arrangements similar to those which apply in National Parks, which give local planning authorities discretion to examine and approve details of new agricultural and forestry buildings; and

2 an increase in the minimum area of agricultural land attracting permitted development rights.

The current scheme in the National Parks requires anyone wishing to erect a farm or forestry building not requiring specific

planning permission to send information about it to the local planning authority. The authority has 28 days to decide whether development would have significant effects on its surroundings. It may require details for formal approval. If it does not ask for details, the development can proceed after the expiry of the 28 days. If details are sought, the authority's consent will be needed before the development can proceed. It may concern itself only with the siting, design and external appearance of the building. It may not challenge the need for the development. If the authority does not approve the details, the applicant may appeal to the appropriate Secretary of State.

Government Proposals

In a statement in the House of Commons on 11 June (*Hansard*, Vol 192, No 121, written answers, cols 482-5), Sir George Young, Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, said that the Government had decided to extend national park arrangements to all parts of England and Wales. They will:

1 cover not only new buildings, but also significant extensions and alterations, and farm and forestry roads; and

2 enable local planning authorities to consider not only visual aspects, but also the desirability of preserving ancient monuments and their settings, known archaeological sites, settings of listed buildings, and sites of recognised nature conservation value, including sites of special scientific interest.

The new arrangements will be accompanied by guidance to planning authorities stressing the importance of reconciling environmental considerations with the needs of farm and forestry business. As the Government considers that local authority development control should be funded by application fees, a fee will be payable at the initial notification stage.

Extension of Control

The Government, Sir George continued, had decided to extend full development control to all farm holdings of less than 5 hectares.[1] Land below 1 hectare which forms part of a unit of 5 hectares or more, but is separated from it, will be subject to such control.

The changes, the Minister said, 'will produce substantial environmental benefits in controlling the effects of agricultural and forestry development, while ensuring that the rural economy can continue to prosper. . . . They represent a significant extension of the rights of local authorities to take an interest in the activities of our agricultural and forestry industries.' The Government, he said, would monitor the operation of the new system. If necessary, it would introduce modifications in three years' time. Separate measures would be introduced to cover planning controls over fish farms.

Set-Aside Scheme

Details were given in the House of Commons on 18 June (*Hansard*, Vol 193, No 127, written answers, col 125) by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Mr John Gummer, of a one-year Set-Aside Scheme (see p 71) agreed by the European Community. The scheme will be available to producers who set aside at least 15 per cent of the 1991 arable area for 1991-92 and also reduce their cereals area by 15 per cent in the same period. Participants will receive a payment of £121·20 a hectare set aside (£109·20 in the less favoured areas – LFAs) or £91·20 a hectare (£79·20 in the LFAs) where areas of more than 100 hectares and more than 75 per cent of arable area are set aside. Farmers will be required to plant a green cover. In other respects, land set aside will be subject to similar environmental conditions as the existing five-year Set-Aside Scheme.

Blue-eared Pig Disease

On 13 June the Government issued the blue-eared pig disease order and made the disease notifiable. On 18 June it supplied guidance for farmers and veterinary surgeons. This advises on permitted pig movements in a restricted zone, on symptoms of the disease and on precautions to prevent its spread.

The disease, characterised by influenza-like symptoms and an increased level of abortions among pregnant sows, first occurred in the European Community in Germany in November 1990 and has been diagnosed in the Netherlands, Belgium, and Spain. A

[1] 1 hectare = 0·4711 acre.

similar condition has occurred in North America in recent years. Restrictions on the movement of pigs imposed by the order in Britain are more stringent than those required by Community rules and tougher than those imposed by other Community countries where the disease is established. Farms in the areas surrounding those where disease is suspected have also been put under restriction.

Summarising government measures in the House of Commons on 13 June (*Hansard*, Vol 192, No 124, written answers, cols 666-8), Mr David Maclean, Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, stressed that Britain was in close touch with those Community countries where the disease had been diagnosed and who were fully co-operating. In the House of Commons on 17 July (*Hansard*, Vol 195, No 148, written answers, col 167) Mr Gummer said that government action appeared to have been successful in containing the spread of the disease. The restricted area would therefore be reduced.

Forestry

In a speech in Gwent on 12 June relaunching the Woodland Grant Scheme (see pp 214-16), the Minister of State for Wales, Sir Wyn Roberts, commended the scheme as especially suited to Welsh woodlands. Groups of trees occupying an area of less than 0·25 hectare, for example, could qualify for grants, as could a certain amount of open space in a woodland, for example near crags and around pools – of great value for visual and ecological diversity. The Woodland Grant Scheme, Sir Wyn said, 'is now the main source of grant aid for *all* woodland establishment and management' in Great Britain.

Renewable Sources of Energy

The Government has set up a ministerial advisory group to lead a review of renewable energy strategy.

Two more landfill gas power projects have been opened in England; government funding has been announced for further studies into tidal energy; and Britain's first shoreline wave energy system has been inaugurated.

Ministerial Advisory Group

Giving details of the group's formation in London on 5 August, Mr Colin Moynihan, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy, said that its members brought together expertise from the renewable energy industry, business, management and academic life. Their aim would be to contribute an intellectual analysis of what was needed to support the renewables industry. The group's independent view would be central to the future development of renewable energy strategy in the 1990s and beyond. It would draw upon information from a technical assessment being conducted by the Energy Technology Support Unit and would consider evidence from a wide range of interested parties. Members would visit renewable energy sites and would publish a report early in 1992.

Underlining the Government's commitment to the development and exploitation of renewables, Mr Moynihan cited the £180 million it had spent since 1979 on the renewable energy programme. Expenditure in 1991-92 would be some £24 million, a record level and a 20 per cent increase on 1990-91.

Landfill Gas

The largest project in Britain to produce electricity from landfill gas was opened on 5 June at Brogborough (Bedfordshire). It will use gas given off by buried municipal rubbish to generate 4 megawatts (MW) of electricity. Britain is the largest user of landfill gas as an energy source in the European Community and is second only to the United States in its exploitation worldwide. Each year about 30 million tonnes of waste is produced in Britain, of which over 90 per cent is landfilled. At present 68 landfill projects are in operation, under construction or proposed.

In his speech at the opening, Mr Moynihan stressed the environmental benefits of landfill power projects. 'They use waste instead of wasting it', he said. 'By burning methane (the main component of landfill gas) they help to

remove a potent greenhouse gas; and by displacing fossil fuel use they help to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and acid gases such as sulphur dioxide.'

Opening a 1·8 MW landfill power plant in Manchester on 24 July, Mr Moynihan said that the Government would fund 50 per cent of a £120,000 study into renewable potential in the area of the regional electricity company Norweb (see pp 25-8).

Tidal Energy

On 6 June, Mr Moynihan announced that the Government is to help fund further regional studies into the impact of the proposed Severn tidal energy barrage (see p 431, 1989, and p 291, 1990). The studies will cost £426,000, to which the Government will contribute £374,880 and the Severn Tidal Power Group (STPG) the rest. They will follow the government contribution of August 1990 (see p 353, 1990).

A STPG report on public response to the barrage proposal has been published (see p 289). Most of the 300 individuals and organisations who commented were in favour, especially representatives of industry, commerce and leisure interest groups. The most critical observations came from environmental interest groups and from the port authorities, while local and public authorities were generally neutral. The STPG recommends further ecological and regional studies. It also recommends early organisational studies, including local planning and overall estuary management.

Wave Energy

On 15 July, Britain's first shoreline wave energy system, the world's most technically advanced, was inaugurated on the island of Islay. Speaking at the ceremony, Mr Moynihan said that further government funding of £205,000, to develop the reliability and performance of the project, would bring the Government's contribution to £900,000. The system, fully operational, is delivering up to 75 kilowatts into the local grid.

The construction of this small-scale gulley device began in 1985 and was undertaken by the Queen's University of Belfast. In addition to the review of overall strategy for renewables, the Government is considering the prospects and future of wave energy in Britain, from shoreline to large-scale gulley devices.

Shorter Notes

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

The local authority financial settlements for Great Britain for 1992-93 were announced in the House of Commons on 23 July.

Giving the details for England, the Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr Michael Heseltine, said that total standard spending (the Government's estimate of how much it should cost to provide a standard level of service) was being set at £41,800 million. This was 7·2 per cent more than in 1991-92. Aggregate external finance – external support from central government to local authorities – would amount to £33,100 million, which was also 7·2 per cent more than in 1991-92. The community charge appropriate to this level of spending and support would be about £256. The actual charge set by authorities would depend on their budgets and their determination to collect the charge. Many people would pay substantially less because of rebates and the community charge reduction scheme.

For Wales, the Secretary of State for Wales, Mr David Hunt, said that total standard spending would be £2,639 million – 8·5 per cent above the 1991-92 figure. Aggregate external finance would be £2,383 million – 6·7 per cent more than in 1991-92. The resulting community charge would be £118.

For Scotland, the Secretary of State for Scotland, Mr Ian Lang, announced external finance of £5,123 million – 6·1 per cent more than in 1991-92.

The Government had received over 800 responses to the consultation paper published in April on the proposed council tax (see pp 173-5). The great majority had welcomed the proposals. The Government intended to proceed along these lines, with a view to bringing the council tax into operation by 1 April 1993 – the earliest feasible date. However, many responses had questioned whether the seven tax bands proposed extended far enough up the range of house

prices. After careful consideration, the Government had decided that there should be one additional band. This would apply to houses worth over £320,000 in England, over £240,000 in Wales and over £212,000 in Scotland.

Sources: *Hansard*, Vol 195, No 151, cols 1052-3, 1066-7 and 1076-7.

INQUIRY INTO THE SUPERVISION OF THE BANK OF CREDIT AND COMMERCE INTERNATIONAL

On 19 July the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Norman Lamont, announced in the House of Commons that the Government was to set up an inquiry into the supervision of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI). Lord Justice Bingham would undertake the inquiry.

Its terms of reference were 'to enquire into the supervision of BCCI under the Banking Acts; to consider whether the action taken by all the [British] authorities was appropriate and timely; and to make recommendations'. The inquiry would be carried out on behalf of the Treasury and the Bank of England, and proceedings would take place in private. Assistance would be sought from those most directly involved, although written submissions and evidence were invited from any member of the public with an interest in the subject. It was emphasised that the recovery of deposits from BCCI was outside the inquiry's terms of reference.

BCCI was closed down on 5 July by the Bank of England and other banking authorities in a worldwide operation to seize the assets of the institution. This followed the publication of a report commissioned by the Bank of England from Price Waterhouse, BCCI's auditor, which provided evidence of large-scale fraud going back several years. According to the Bank of England, large losses, built up in BCCI's lending and treasury operations, had been concealed 'with false accounting and other devices', and this fraud had been perpetrated at the highest levels within the bank.

BCCI was founded 20 years ago by Mr Agha Hasan Abedi and was incorporated in Luxembourg. By 1987 the bank had achieved its aim of global coverage and had a presence in 73 countries. In 1990 BCCI was found guilty of laundering drug money in the United States and instructed to forfeit $15 million. Also in 1990 it had to agree to shut its operations in the United States after evidence was found that it had secretly owned Washington's largest bank for ten years. After BCCI announced losses for 1989 of £304 million, Sheikh Zayed of Abu Dhabi and the Government of Abu Dhabi injected $1,000 million, and control of BCCI moved to that country.

Sources: Inquiry into the Supervision of BCCI news release, 1.8.91; *Hansard*, Vol 195, No 149, cols 715-29.

BANK LENDING TO SMALL BUSINESSES

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Norman Lamont, described on 17 July the findings of a survey conducted by the Treasury and the Bank of England into the relationship between banks and small businesses, and the conclusions that he drew from that survey.

The Treasury and the Bank had announced on 3 June that they would conduct the survey, in response to complaints that the reductions that had been made in base rates since the beginning of October 1990 had not been passed on in full to small businesses. It had been further alleged that the banks had significantly increased the fees and non-interest charges that they levied on small businesses.

Early in June, Mr Lamont met the President of the British Bankers' Association and the chairmen of National Westminster, Lloyds, Barclays and Midland Banks, and asked them to co-operate in establishing the facts. The banks accordingly supplied the information that was used in the survey.

The data suggested to Mr Lamont that the bulk of small firms' overdrafts and loans were linked to base rates. About 95 per cent of small business borrowers had received at least a 3 per cent reduction in their borrowing rates as a result of the 3·5 per cent cut in base

rates that had taken place since October 1990.

Some 70 per cent had benefited from the full 3·5 per cent reduction. However, about 25 per cent had experienced an increase in their margins over base rates by about 0·5 per cent, and some 5 per cent had experienced a still larger rise in margins. Increases in margins were partly due to the current stage in the business cycle and should be reversed when recovery took hold, banks being more prone to impose higher margins on credit risk grounds at times of recession. Margins also rose for other reasons – for instance, because borrowers had had to negotiate new facilities, because they had been moved to a new basis for setting rates as part of a central initiative or because they had exceeded their authorised borrowing limits and faced high penal rates.

The chairmen were each sent an analysis of the complaints received about their respective banks and Mr Lamont requested a report on how these complaints had been dealt with. He also spoke to the chairmen about the main areas of complaint and suggested that each should consider drawing up a code of conduct for their small business customers, so that customers could be confident that:

1 the terms and conditions of their accounts were fair and reasonable and had taken account of their individual circumstances;

2 they had been notified of the terms and conditions in advance in writing, in clear and simple terms;

3 they had been given a full and written statement of the standard tariffs of charges applicable to their account;

4 they would be specifically warned in advance if charges not covered by the standard tariff, such as for management time, were likely to be made;

5 they had been given a clear explanation of the basis on which interest was to be charged;

6 the terms and conditions of the account other than the interest rate would not be altered without adequate prior notice; and

7 they had had a clear explanation of how complaints could be made about decisions taken at a local branch.

The chairmen assured Mr Lamont that these points were generally reflected in their existing policies, but they would instruct branch managers to ensure that they were followed in all cases. They would also consider what further codes of best practice could be adopted. The banks' progress in implementing these codes of good practice would be assessed after six months.

Source: *Hansard*, Vol 195, No 148, written answers, cols 181-3.

EXPORT AWARDS FOR SMALLER BUSINESSES

Five British companies received the 1991 Export Award for Smaller Businesses at a ceremony held in London on 2 July. Certificates of merit are to be awarded locally to a further 11 companies with commendable export performance.

This year's five award winners are:

1 Acrastyle, designers and manufacturers of electrical equipment for power transmission and distribution systems of Ulverston, Cumbria.

2 B A Peters, suppliers of sport yachts and cruisers, of Chichester, West Sussex.

3 Linx Printing Technologies, manufacturers of high-technology jet printers and accessories, of Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.

4 Rautomead, manufacturers of continuous casting machines for the non-ferrous metals industry, of Dundee, Tayside.

5 Starkey's Technicast, producers of continuous iron bars, of Hull, Humberside.

Open only to firms employing fewer than 200 people, the Export Award competition requires entrants to demonstrate sustained growth in export earnings over their two most recent financial years. The Award is sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board, which is the export promotion wing of the Department of Trade and Industry; Midland Bank; Price Waterhouse, chartered accountants and business advisers; and *Kompass British Exports*, published by Reed Information Services, which also administers the scheme.

Export earnings of all five winners came to more than £23 million in 1990.

Source: Export Award for Smaller Businesses news release, 1.7.91.

INWARD INVESTMENT

Record figures for investment by foreign firms in Britain have been announced for a second successive year. The annual report of the Invest in Britain Bureau (IBB) of the Department of Trade and Industry shows that 350 direct investment decisions were made by foreign-owned companies in 1990-91. This is expected to create nearly 24,000 jobs and safeguard a further 38,000.

United States companies announced 120 investment projects in 1990-91, accounting for nearly 16,000 jobs created or safeguarded, including the relocation of IBM Communications Systems headquarters from New York to London. German companies were again the largest European investors, with 63 projects. The 37 projects announced by Japanese companies included the setting up of five more research and development establishments, bringing the total to 13.

The annual review of Locate in Scotland (LIS) reports that Scotland attracted 63 investment projects, worth £394 million, in 1990-91. There are plans to create or safeguard 10,200 jobs.[1] The amount invested fell by 54 per cent compared with 1989-90, but the number of projects fell by only one. However, investment from Japan and the rest of Asia was the highest since the establishment of LIS in 1981, with nine projects, totalling £93 million. Investment came mainly from manufacturers of electronics components, including, for the first time, Korean and Taiwanese companies embarking on their first manufacturing ventures in Europe.

Inward investment figures for Wales in 1990-91, published in the Welsh Development Agency's annual report, reveal a 25 per cent increase on 1989-90 in created or safeguarded jobs, which amounted to 15,000. The 147 projects are expected to generate some £585 million in capital investment.

Of 200 foreign-owned companies questioned in an independent market survey, over 80 per cent found performance in Britain met or exceeded expectations, while 52 per cent thought British factories were more productive than those in other countries. Over 70 per cent said that they were planning or considering future investments in Britain.

Sources: *Invest in Britain Bureau Annual Report 1990/1991.* Available free from the IBB, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SW; *Locate in Scotland Review 1990-91.* Available free from Scottish Enterprise, 120 Bothwell Street, Glasgow G2 7JP; *Welsh Development Agency Report & Accounts 1990/1991.* Available free from the Welsh Development Agency, Pearl House, Greyfriars Road, Cardiff CF1 3XX; *Inward Investment in the UK: A Market Report.* Available free from the IBB.

MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT

Following the expiry of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA) on 31 July, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Textiles Committee agreed an interim extension to the end of 1992, on the same terms and conditions as the existing arrangements.

Under the MFA the European Community negotiates bilateral agreements with major supplier countries. The first MFA came into effect in 1974 and it has been periodically re-negotiated and extended since then, most recently in 1986 (see pp 328-9, 1986).

At the start of the GATT Uruguay Round in 1986 GATT members committed themselves to the eventual re-integration of trade in textiles and clothing into the GATT framework. However, although the terms for phasing out the MFA over a period of about ten years were close to agreement, the failure to conclude the Round in December 1990 (see pp 22-3) made the interim extension of the current MFA necessary.

The Minister for Trade, Mr Tim Sainsbury, welcomed the extension, saying that it was the outcome for which Britain and the rest of the European Community had been pressing. He believed that the extension would be good news for Britain's textile and clothing

[1] These figures relate only to projects handled by LIS and the Scottish Office Industry Department.

industry, as it would allow the orderly development of trade until the future of the MFA was settled definitively as part of the Uruguay Round.

Source: Department of Trade and Industry news release, 31.7.91.

PACKAGE HOLIDAYS

Strengthened proposals for protecting package holidaymakers have been announced by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Mr Peter Lilley. In a discussion document published on 24 July, he proposes legislation to:

– give holidaymakers new, legally enforceable rights which would require tour organisers and travel agents to provide more and clearer information in their brochures and contracts;

– set up a new licensing system for package travel organisers and a national back-up fund to repatriate and repay holidaymakers should their tour firm go out of business; and

– disallow last-minute surcharges.

In particular, the proposed legislation would:

– set out the information to be included in brochures and other consumer information before the start of a holiday;

– define the circumstances for changing the particulars of brochures;

– lay down the content of contracts between holidaymakers and travel operators;

– regulate implementation of surcharges so that no price increases could be made within 20 days of departure; and

– place the sole liability for holidays on organisers, who would be required to deal promptly with complaints.

Mr Lilley said that legislation would be backed up by a combination of new criminal offences and civil liabilities. The European Community directive on package travel, to be implemented by member states by the end of 1992, required holiday firms to provide evidence of security to repay money and repatriate consumers in the event of insolvency. The Government proposed to facilitate this by setting up a new licensing system for package travel organisers, with a requirement for them to be bonded, and a national back-up fund. However, small organisations running trips on an informal basis would be exempt from the new provisions.

Sources: *Package Travel.* Available free from Consumer Affairs Division, Department of Trade and Industry, Room 507, 10-18 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0NN; *Hansard,* Vol 195, No 153, written answers, col 721.

WATER SUPPLY INDUSTRY

In a speech in London on 3 July, the Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr Michael Heseltine, cited some of the benefits of the water industry's investment programme in England and Wales – £28,000 million over ten years. Replying to criticisms of profits made by the privatised water companies, he said that adequate profitability was essential to help finance investment, for example, in replacing and renovating old distribution systems. For the ten privatised companies, the amount invested in 1990-91 was six times the amount distributed to shareholders (see pp 473-5, 1989).

In a statement in the House of Commons on 17 July, Mr Heseltine welcomed the publication of the Drinking Water Inspectorate's first annual report (see p 328). Of the 3·3 million tests carried out on drinking water in England and Wales during 1990, Mr Heseltine said, 99 per cent came within the legal limits. 'The Chief Inspector has concluded that the water supplied to consumers is of high quality, and often of exceptionally high quality.' Water quality was tested against the 'very demanding' criteria laid down in the European Community's drinking water directive.

A remedial programme to improve supplies found not to comply at some time with some of the standards of the Water Quality Regulations would need over £2,000 million of investment by 1995.

Sources: Department of the Environment news release, 3.7.91; *Hansard,* Vol 195, No 148, written answers, cols 225-6.

Environmental, Social and Cultural Affairs

Inner Cities

A major extension of the Government's policy to help Britain's most deprived urban areas was announced by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr Michael Heseltine, on 31 July. Under the City Challenge scheme, a number of local authorities have won the opportunity to enter into five-year agreements with the Department of the Environment to tackle some of the worst social conditions in the inner cities.

Earlier in July the Government launched a new programme to improve standards in inner city schools.

CITY CHALLENGE SCHEME

Mr Heseltine launched the scheme on 23 May, when he announced that 15 local authorities had been invited to prepare plans to regenerate their inner city areas. The ten winning authorities, he said, would be entitled to a share of more than £350 million to be made over a period of five years. He encouraged the local authorities involved to incorporate partnerships with the private sector and the local community in their proposals.

From 15 to 17 July ministers from the Department of the Environment visited each of the 15 authorities invited to submit bids, and received presentations. They also invited two out of the six authorities that had submitted unsolicited bids to present their plans.

Selected Local Authorities

At a press conference in Manchester, Mr Heseltine announced those authorities that had been chosen to receive City Challenge funding. They comprise:

- Bradford;
- Dearne Valley (Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham);
- Liverpool;
- the London boroughs of Lewisham and Tower Hamlets;
- Manchester;
- Middlesbrough;
- Newcastle upon Tyne;
- Nottingham;
- Wirral (Merseyside); and
- Wolverhampton.

The Secretary of State indicated that he had selected 11 rather than ten authorities, as two of the bids were so close. Consequently, the overall resources available had been increased from £75 million to £82·5 million a year for five years. Mr Heseltine explained that he had carefully considered all the bids and had been impressed by the quality and imagination of the plans. The local authorities had risen to the challenge and had brought together 'the energies and enthusiasm' of local communities, voluntary organisations and the private sector.

Mr Heseltine said that the successful authorities had been chosen 'because they ... impressed us by the breadth of their vision for their selected neighbourhoods, by their commitment and by the efforts they are prepared to make to ensure their proposals for regeneration come to fruition'.

Submitted Bids

The bids covered a wide range of proposals to revitalise the urban environment, to tackle

high unemployment and to improve social facilities. In Dearne Valley, for example, the bid proposed six integrated programmes:

– land, roads and premises;

– economic diversification;

– education and training;

– community development;

– the environment; and

– housing.

The overall programme in the Dearne Valley would aim to:

– provide 4,000 new jobs;

– release 320 hectares of land for industry and commerce;

– construct 320,000 sq m of industrial and commercial property;

– reclaim over 1,000 hectares of derelict and despoiled land;

– provide an extra 2,000 full-time equivalent student places;

– create new programmes for the long-term unemployed;

– build 1,000 new houses; and

– improve 1,600 existing houses.

The programme would be delivered by the existing Dearne Valley Partnership, which comprises local businessmen, local government leaders and central government representatives, and which works closely with the local Training and Enterprise Councils, colleges, developers and community groups.

Action Plans

The Secretary of State said that he had asked each of the winning authorities to work closely with their City Action Teams (CATs)[1] to turn their bids into action plans with detailed projects and targets. Once these had been agreed, an implementation agreement would be signed with each authority so that everyone was aware of the targets for each year. Progress would be overseen by the CAT minister responsible for each area.

Unsuccessful Local Authorities

Those authorities which had not been successful on this occasion would be told exactly why they had not been selected, Mr Heseltine continued. However, 'the partnerships which they have established would be of lasting assistance to them', and parts of their proposals would possibly be adopted under other departmental programmes.

Conclusion

The Secretary of State concluded: 'We are entering an exciting new era in urban policy. . . . Competition has sharpened imaginations and stimulated action which would not otherwise have taken place.' Following the success of the scheme, a new round of City Challenge would be launched for 1993-94, which would be open to all 57 authorities entitled to support under the urban programme.

[1] Eight City Action Teams have been established to co-ordinate and target government programmes to regenerate the inner cities. These teams bring together the regional officials of the Department of Employment, the Department of the Environment and the Department of Trade and Industry to ensure that their main programmes are working together effectively.

RAISING STANDARDS IN INNER CITY SCHOOLS

A new programme to raise standards in inner city primary and secondary schools was launched by the Government on 15 July. It will be the first ever grant programme from the Department of Education and Science to focus exclusively on inner city school projects. The programme, part of the Grants for Education Support and Training scheme,[1] is designed to provide £20 million between 1992 and 1995, of which £6·6 million will be available in 1992-93. The Government is particularly interested in supporting:

– measures to strengthen teaching of the National Curriculum (see pp 40-4 and 122-4), such as in-service training and development of reading programmes; and

– action to reinforce links between schools and parents and the local community, including business.

[1] This enables the Government to support local education authority spending on projects of national priority in England and Wales. The scheme will have total financing of £377 million for 1992-93.

Regional Trends

The annual statistical publication outlining regional contrasts in Britain was published in July.

The data published in *Regional Trends*[1] covers population, housing, transport and the environment, health, law, education, employment, personal income and expenditure, industry and agriculture. Each region is profiled and statistics about counties and local authority districts within each region are provided. *Regional Trends* also provides comparative regional data for other countries of the European Community.

The Regions

The 11 standard statistical regions are: North, Yorkshire and Humberside, East Midlands, East Anglia, South East, South West, West Midlands, North West, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The South East has more than 17 million people – nearly a third of the total. For some statistical purposes it is therefore subdivided into Greater London and Rest of the South East.

REGIONAL DIFFERENCES

Population

East Anglia and the South West have the fastest growing populations, with an annual growth rate of 1 per cent and 0·8 per cent respectively between 1981 and 1989. By contrast, the North, the North West and Scotland recorded slight falls over the same period, although the North West is the most densely populated region. Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales are the most sparsely populated areas of Britain. The table on p 323 summarises some key population statistics for the regions.

Northern Ireland has the youngest population, with 27 per cent below the age of 16. The South West has the oldest population, with 21 per cent over pension age. In 1989 birth rates were highest in Northern Ireland (16·5 per 1,000) and lowest (12·5 per 1,000) in the South East and in Scotland, which also has the highest death rate in Britain after adjustment for the age structure of the population.

In the period 1987-89, the highest concentrations of Britain's ethnic minorities were in the South East – 8·2 per cent of the population – followed by the West Midlands with 7·1 per cent.

Housing

In the period 1981-89 the housing stock increased by 7 per cent, with the highest regional increases taking place in East Anglia (13 per cent) and Northern Ireland (12 per cent). The total number of houses and flats in Britain was 23·2 million in 1989.

Owner occupation continued to grow during the 1980s from 57 per cent in 1981 to 67 per cent in 1989. The lowest rate of owner occupation was in Scotland with 49 per cent, and the highest was 73 per cent in the South West. Northern Ireland had an owner occupation rate of 64 per cent compared with 54 per cent in 1981.

Transport and Environment

Car ownership is highest in East Anglia and the South West, both with over 400 cars per 1,000 population in 1988. It is lowest in Northern Ireland and Scotland (281 cars per 1,000 people) and the North (285).

Fatal or serious accidents on major roads in 1989 were lowest in the North West (74 per 100,000 people) and highest in East Anglia (142 per 100,000).

Smoke and sulphur dioxide emissions fell in all regions during the 1970s and 1980s. Smoke emissions fell by 80 per cent or more in the North, East Anglia, the North West and Scotland and by at least 60 per cent in all other regions.

Health

In 1989 there were 4·7 still births per 1,000 births in Britain. The lowest number – 3·7 – was in East Anglia and the highest – 5·2 – was in Yorkshire and Humberside. There were also some variations in perinatal mortality (still births and deaths of infants under 1 week of age per 1,000 births). The figure for Britain as a whole in 1989 was 8·3 per 1,000; the lowest rate (6·7) was in East Anglia and the highest (9·7) was in the West Midlands.

[1] *Regional Trends.* No 26, 1991. Central Statistical Office. HMSO, £23. ISBN 0 11 620449 4.

Regional Population Data

	Population (thousands) 1989	Percentage change 1981-89	Density: persons per sq km 1989
North	3,073	−1·4	200
Yorkshire and Humberside	4,940	0·4	320
East Midlands	3,999	3·8	256
East Anglia	2,045	7·9	163
South East	17,384	2·2	639
South West	4,652	6·2	195
West Midlands	5,216	0·6	401
North West	6,380	−1·2	870
England	47,689	1·9	366
Wales	2,873	2·1	138
Scotland	5,091	−1·7	66
Northern Ireland	1,583	3·0	117

Infant mortality – deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births – was 8·4 in Britain. Again, the lowest figure (6·4) was in East Anglia and the highest (9·9) was in the West Midlands.

In 1988 cigarette smoking among persons aged 16 and over was most prevalent in Scotland (37 per cent) and the North (36 per cent). The South West had the lowest proportion (28 per cent).

Law Enforcement

There are legal and administrative differences between the legal systems of England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, which make comparisons difficult.

In England and Wales crime rates are highest in the North (10,312 notifiable offences per 100,000 people in 1989), and lowest in East Anglia (5,582 per 100,000 people). The crime rate in England went up by 28 per cent between 1981 and 1989. The highest increase was in the North (51 per cent) and the lowest in the West Midlands (21 per cent). The crime rate per 100,000 people in Northern Ireland (excluding criminal damage valued at £400 or less) was 3,484 in 1989 compared with 3,946 in 1981. In Scotland, where there are different crime recording practices and classifications, the crime rate in 1989 was 9,692 per 100,000 people.

Wales and Northern Ireland had the highest clear-up rates for recorded crime in 1989 (43 per cent), while the South East had the lowest (24 per cent). In 1989 there was one police officer for every 192 people in Northern Ireland – the highest ratio. The lowest was in East Anglia with one officer for every 538 people.

Education

In 1989 pupil-teacher ratios in secondary schools ranged from 12·3 in Scotland to 15·9 in East Anglia and the South West. For primary schools the lowest ratio (19·5) was in Scotland and the highest in Northern Ireland (23·2) followed by the North West (22·6).

The proportion of 16-year-olds continuing in education in 1989-90 varied from 76·8 per cent in Scotland, followed by 65·8 in the East Midlands, down to 59·8 per cent in the South East and East Anglia. In England as a whole the figure was 61·6 per cent, up from 56·9 per cent in 1981.

Employment

In 1990 the average rate of unemployment in Britain was 5·8 per cent. The highest regional rate was 13·4 per cent in Northern Ireland. Rates in the other regions varied from 3·9 per cent in East Anglia to 8·7 per cent in the North.

The highest rates for self-employment in 1990 were in the South West (10·3 per cent of adults), the South East (9·4 per cent) and East Anglia (9·3 per cent of adults). The

lowest rates were in the North (4·9 per cent) and in Scotland (5·2 per cent).

Industry and Agriculture

Reliance on manufacturing industry is most marked in the East Midlands and the West Midlands, which derived 29 per cent or more of gross domestic product from this source in 1989. Conversely, the South East, the South West and Northern Ireland all derived less than 21 per cent from manufacturing.

The number of businesses registered for value added tax grew in all regions in the 1980s. Increases between 1981 and 1989 ranged from 13·5 per cent in the North West to 34·5 per cent in the South East.

East Anglia has the highest proportion of agricultural land in arable crops (84 per cent in 1989) followed by the South East (66 per cent).

Information Technology in Schools

A recent government survey indicates that usage of microcomputers in state-supported schools continues to grow at a significant rate.

The latest survey[1] was carried out in March 1990, following similar ones in 1988 (see pp 333-4, 1989) and 1985 (see pp 76-7, 1987). The purpose of the surveys was to determine levels of provision and use of information technology (IT) in schools as well as its contribution throughout the curriculum. This information helps the Government to evaluate its support for IT in schools, which aims to integrate and extend IT usage across the curriculum for all children.[2]

In the three years from April 1988, some £75 million of local authority expenditure has been supported with central government grants to increase the number of microcomputers in schools and to provide in-service teacher training. In 1991-92 spending of £30·4 million is being supported to supply more microcomputers to primary and special schools (see pp 437-8, 1990); to help children with communications difficulties; and to assist teacher training (see p 83). The Government intends to support spending at about the same level in 1992-93 and 1993-94.

1990 SURVEY

Primary Schools

The 1990 survey found that there were around two and a half times as many microcomputers in the primary sector as in 1985, with the average number of pupils for each microcomputer having fallen from 107 in 1985 to 40 in 1990. Virtually all pupils had had 'hands on' experience of microcomputers in 1990, while in 1985 only 70 per cent had done so. Estimated expenditure on IT, at more than £18 million in 1990, had nearly doubled since 1988 and had trebled since 1985.

In 1990 IT was used more extensively in the main curriculum subject areas than in 1988. All schools were working with IT in English in 1990 and nearly twice as many schools were using IT in science than was the case in 1988. The most frequent use of software by five-year-olds in 1990 was for practice exercises and puzzles, and for older pupils it was mainly used in word processing. On average, 44 per cent of total teaching hours were spent using microcomputers in 1990.

The 1990 study found that nearly seven out of ten primary school staff had been on initial awareness training courses in the use of information technology, compared with just over a half in 1988 and one-quarter in 1985.

Secondary Schools

Secondary schools reported that they had almost three times as many microcomputers in 1990 as in 1985, and that the number of pupils for every microcomputer had dropped correspondingly from 60 to 18. Between 1988 and 1990 the proportion of pupils with 'hands on' experience of microcomputers rose from 73 to 84 per cent. Estimated

[1] Department of Education and Science Statistical Bulletin, *Survey of Information Technology in Schools*, No 11/91, June 1991. Available free from DES Analytical Services Branch, Elizabeth House, York Road, London SE1 7PH.

[2] For further information on government policy towards the use of information technology in schools, see FCO reference paper *Information Technology in Britain's Schools*, No 239/90.

spending on information technology in 1990 was over £60 million, nearly three times more than in 1988 and six times greater than in 1985.

In 1990 all age groups most frequently used software for word processing, but about a fifth of the younger age groups (9 to 13 years of age) also used software for practice exercises and puzzles. For secondary pupils overall, microcomputers were used for 15 per cent of total teaching hours on average.

Nearly three-quarters of computer studies and half of business studies departments said that they had made substantial use of IT in teaching in 1990. Around three-quarters of mathematics and two-thirds of craft, design and technology, English, geography and physics departments made some use of IT, and half or more of business studies, computer studies, English and mathematics departments used central computing facilities. More than three-fifths of secondary schools offered examinable courses in computer studies/science, computing or information technology.

The proportion of staff who had undertaken initial awareness training courses increased from under a half to over three-fifths between 1988 and 1990.

Special Educational Needs

In the 1990 survey all primary and secondary schools reported the use of microcomputers by pupils with special educational needs. About three-quarters of schools used them to help pupils with writing.

Shorter Notes

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

The Minister of State for the Environment and Countryside, Mr David Trippier, announced on 25 July the establishment of the new Advisory Committee on Hazardous Substances. The Environmental Protection Act 1990 (see pp 394-5) requires the Secretary of State for the Environment to consult this independent committee before using his powers under sections 140 and 142 of the Act. These empower him to obtain information about potentially hazardous substances and to restrict or prohibit the import, supply, storage or use of injurious substances or articles.

Mr Trippier said that the committee was at the heart of the Government's new approach to pollution control. 'In the past, industrial chemicals were investigated and controlled on an ad-hoc basis under a variety of powers – sometimes inadequate. . . . We now have a systematic programme to select and review potentially hazardous chemicals together with our partners in the EC [European Community] and OECD [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development].'

Mr Tripper added that the committee would draw advice from a wide range of backgrounds: independent scientists (including the Chairman) and advisers representing bodies concerned with environmental protection, protection of users, and industry. He concluded: 'I am confident that the new committee will make a valuable contribution to achieving our objective of identifying and reducing the risk of specific chemicals to the public and the environment.'

Source: Department of the Environment news release, 25.7.91.

REPORT ON DIETARY VALUES

A major government report on nutrition and diet was published on 9 July, following a four-year investigation by the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy (COMA). The report, *Dietary Reference Values for Food Energy and Nutrients for the United Kingdom* (see p 328), analyses sources of energy and nutrients, and provides detailed advice on their consumption. Fats, sugars, starches, proteins, vitamins and minerals are examined, and a range of recommended intakes offered for each, depending on a person's age, sex and level of physical activity. Previous reports on dietary requirements have recommended daily intakes based on average needs, but this is the first report to recommend a wide variety of intakes, reflecting the diverse dietary needs of Britain's population. The COMA report prescribes the nutrient composition of a range of diets which, if followed, would be

expected to reduce the incidence of illness and death arising from coronary heart disease and some cancers.

Welcoming its publication, the Secretary of State for Health, Mr William Waldegrave, described the report as 'an important part of the campaign for better health, launched with our consultative document *The Health of the Nation* . . .' (see pp 232-5). He continued: 'It is . . . the most comprehensive and up-to-date document of its kind in the world.' The report, said Mr Waldegrave, would be of great use to those involved in food production, catering, and to those in the medical and nutritional occupations who advise individuals on their dietary needs.

Source: Department of Health news release, 9.7.91.

FOUNDATION FOR SPORT AND THE ARTS

A new trust to help sports and the arts has been established with grants expected to total £60 million a year.

The Foundation for Sport and the Arts has been set up by the Pool Promoters Association, which plans to channel £40 million each year into the Foundation. A further £20 million a year is expected to come from the proceeds of a cut in pool betting duty from 40 per cent to 37·5 per cent. The cut, initially for four years, was proposed by the Government in April (see p 148) on the understanding that a foundation, with funds of £40 million, was established by the pool promoters.

About two-thirds of the Foundation's revenue will be used to benefit athletic sports and games and one-third will be used to benefit the arts. League football and horse racing, which benefit from other arrangements, have been excluded. The Foundation expects to announce its first grants in September.

Source: Foundation for Sport and the Arts news release, 5.8.91.

Documentation

Government and Administration

Civil Service Commissioners' Report 1990-91. Available free from the Civil Service Commission, Alençon Link, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 1JB.

Local Government Review. The Internal Management of Local Authorities in England. A Consultation Paper (see p 300). Available free from the Department of the Environment, Room N7/20, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB.

The British Nationality Act. FCO fact sheet, No 1A91/566.

The Citizen's Charter. Raising the Standard (see pp 293-300). Cm 1599. HMSO, £8·50. ISBN 0 10 115992 7.

Economic and Scientific Affairs

Inward Investment in the UK: A Market Report (see p 318). Available free from the Invest in Britain Bureau, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SW.

Invest in Britain Bureau Annual Report 1990/1991 (see p 318). Available free from the Invest in Britain Bureau, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SW.

Britain's Banking and Financial Institutions. FCO booklet, No 145/91.

Insurance Annual Report 1990. The report shows that at the end of 1990 there were 839 insurance companies authorised to carry out business in Britain, seven more than at the end of 1989. Department of Trade and Industry. HMSO, £5·40. ISBN 0 11 515274 1.

City of London. Joint publication by the Corporation of London and British Invisibles focusing on the City's markets, financial activities and professional services. Available free from British Invisibles, Windsor House, 39 King Street, London EC2V 8DQ. ISBN 0 852 03 0320.

British Overseas Trade Board Annual Report 1990/91. Confirms that Britain's total visible exports increased by 11 per cent in value terms in 1990 over 1989. Non-oil exports increased by 10 per cent, imports by 3·5 per cent and the current account deficit was reduced from £20,000 million in 1989 to £14,000 million in 1990. The European Community accounted for over half of Britain's visible exports and Germany overtook the United States to become Britain's largest market. Available free from the Department of Trade and Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Industrial Relations in the 1990s: Proposals for Further Reform of Industrial Relations and Trade Union Law. (see p 310). Cm 1602. HMSO, £6·60. ISBN 0 10 116022 4.

Innovation in Manufacturing Industry. Government response to the First Report from the House of Lords Committee on Science and Technology, Session 1990-91 (see p 170). Cm 1575. HMSO, £3·65. ISBN 0 10 115752 5.

Welsh Development Agency Report & Accounts 1990/1991 (see p 318). Available free from the Welsh Development Agency, Pearl House, Greyfriars Road, Cardiff CF1 3XX.

Scottish Development Agency: Annual Report Nineteen Ninety One. Reports that total Agency expenditure of £184 million during 1990-91 generated £715 million in associated expenditure. Available free from Scottish Enterprise, 120 Bothwell Street, Glasgow G2 7JP.

Locate in Scotland Review 1990-91 (see p 318). Available free from Scottish Enterprise, 120 Bothwell Street, Glasgow G2 7JP.

Package Travel (see p 319). Available free from Consumer Affairs Division, Department of Trade

and Industry, Room 507, 10-18 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0NN.

Report on Wages in Agriculture: 1 January to 31 December 1990. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. HMSO, £3·50. ISBN 0 11 242920 3.

Balance in the Countryside. Colour brochure explaining how the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and other government departments help to conserve the environment in England and Wales by statutory controls and encouraging sensitive management. Available free (reference number PB 0574) from MAFF Publications, London SE99 7TP.

Pesticide Poisoning of Animals 1990: Investigations of Suspected Incidents in Great Britain. Advisory Committee on Pesticides. Available from MAFF Publications, London SE99 7TP. £2·25.

Fifty Years of the National Food Survey 1940-1990. Proceedings of a Symposium held in December 1990. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. HMSO, £15. ISBN 0 11 242909 2.

Forestry Expansion: A Study of Technical, Economic and Ecological Factors. Ian Cunningham. Summary of a study, undertaken at the invitation of the Forestry Commission, into the factors relevant to the scale, nature and location of new forestry planting in Britain. Available free from the Forestry Commission, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 7AT.

Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics 1991. Department of Energy. HMSO, £16·50. ISBN 0 11 413629 7.

Energy and the Environment. Thirteenth Report of the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities, Session 1990-91. HMSO, £23. ISBN 0 10 485391 3.

Decommissioning of Oil and Gas Fields: Sixth Special Report. Government Observations on the Fourth Report from the House of Commons Energy Committee, Session 1990-91 (see p 208). HMSO, £3·75. ISBN 0 10 258591 1.

Drinking Water 1990 – A Report by the Chief Inspector, Drinking Water Inspectorate (see p 319). HMSO, £16. ISBN 0 11 752483 2.

Digest of Environmental Protection and Water Statistics: No 13, 1990. Department of the Environment. HMSO, £13·50. ISBN 0 11 752415 8.

The MOT Testing Guide. Vehicle Inspectorate. HMSO, £3·50. ISBN 0 11 551050 8.

Heavy Goods Vehicle Inspection Manual. Vehicle Inspectorate. HMSO, £8·75. ISBN 0 11 551026 5.

Seaborne Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom 1990. Department of Transport statistics report. HMSO, £18·50. ISBN 0 11 551039 7.

Marine Accident Investigation Branch Annual Report 1990. HMSO, £5·50. ISBN 0 11 551041 9.

New Life for Industry: Biotechnology, Industry and the Community in the 1990s and beyond. Written for the non-scientist, this report by the National Economic Development Council's Biotechnology Working Party examines the current status of biotechnology in Britain, identifying promising areas of development for British companies. Available from NEDO Books, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QX. £95.

Environmental, Social and Cultural Affairs

Recycling: a Memorandum Providing Guidance to Local Authorities on Recycling. Department of the Environment waste management paper 28. HMSO, £9. ISBN 0 11 752445 X.

AIDS and Life Insurance. Commissioned jointly by the Department of Health and the Association of British Insurers, this report is based on surveys conducted among AIDS specialists, the general public and young people. It concludes that many people are deterred from taking an HIV test because of questions posed by life insurance companies. The Government announced on 25 July that it was seeking further talks with the Association of British Insurers about the findings of the survey. British Market Research Bureau. HMSO, £5·75. ISBN 0 11 321433 2.

Dietary Reference Values for Food Energy and Nutrients for the United Kingdom. Report of the Panel on Dietary Reference Values of the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy (see pp 325-6). Department of Health. HMSO, £11·50. ISBN 0 11 321397 2.

Dietary Reference Values: A Guide. Department of Health. HMSO, £5·75. ISBN 0 11 321396 4.

A Future for Alcohol and Drug Misuse Services: Guidance to Voluntary Sector Alcohol and Drug Misuse Services on the Implications of the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990. Department of Health. Available free from the Department of Health, Wellington House, 133 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UG.

Welfare of Children and Young People in Hospital. A 40-page guide explaining how to care for and treat young people in hospital, and including advice on accommodation for parents and the provision of education and play areas. Department of Health. HMSO, £5·50. ISBN 0 11 321358 1.

Science Board and Industry. A report by the Science and Engineering Research Council on the interaction between higher education institutions, supported by SERC's Science Board, and industry. Available free from SERC, Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon SN2 1ET.

1839-1989: Public Education in England: 150th Anniversary. Department of Education and Science/Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Schools. HMSO, £8·95. ISBN 0 11 270756 4.

Technical and Vocational Education Initiative (TVEI): England and Wales: 1983-90. The report says that the programme has been successful in changing the structure of the curriculum for 14- to 18-year-olds, promoting a wider range of teaching approaches; making the curriculum more relevant to adult and working life; obliging schools to provide work experience for all pupils; and improving links between schools and business. Department of Education and Science. HMSO, £6·25. ISBN 0 11 270767 X.

Further Education in Northern Ireland: The Road Ahead. Department of Education, Northern Ireland. Available free from the Department of Education, Rathgael House, Balloo Road, Bangor, Co Down BT12 2PR.

Working Together: A Guide to Arrangements for Inter-agency Co-operation for the Protection of Children from Abuse. A revised edition of the first *Working Together* document, published in 1988 (see p 292, 1988). Available free from Department of Health Stores, Health Publications Unit, No.2 Site, Manchester Road, Heywood, Lancashire OL10 2PZ.

The Fourth Report of the Committee for Monitoring Agreements on Tobacco Advertising and Sponsorship. HMSO, £3·50. ISBN 0 11 321436 7.

Broadcasting Standards Council Annual Report 1990-91. Available from the Council, 5-8 The Sanctuary, London SW1P 3JS. £4. ISBN 1 872521 04 5.

Further Information Points

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, 3 Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HH.

Central Office of Information, Hercules Road, London SE1 7DU.

Central Statistical Office, Government Offices, Great George Street, London SW1P 3AQ

HM Customs and Excise, New King's Beam House, 22 Upper Ground, London SE1 9PJ.

Ministry of Defence, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB.

Department of Education and Science, Elizabeth House, York Road, London SE1 7PH.

Department of Employment, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NF.

Department of Energy, 1 Palace Street, London SW1E 5HE.

Department of the Environment, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB.

Foreign & Commonwealth Office, King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH.

Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS.

Home Office, Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT.

Board of Inland Revenue, Somerset House, London WC2R 1LB.

Office of the Minister for the Civil Service, Government Offices, Horse Guards Road, London SW1 3AL.

Northern Ireland Information Service, Stormont Castle, Belfast BT4 3ST.

Overseas Development Administration, Eland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5DH.

Scottish Information Office, New St Andrew's House, Edinburgh EH1 3TD.

Department of Social Security, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS.

Department of Trade and Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Department of Transport, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB.

HM Treasury, Parliament Street, London SW1P 3AG.

Welsh Office, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NQ.

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